THE TIMES

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Poison cloud engulfs Belgrade



A Nato raid on a chemicals plant is threatening the Serb capital, reports ***Tom Walker*** in Belgrade

AN ecological disaster appeared to be unfolding yesterday, after Nato deliberately bombed a combined petrochemicals, fertiliser and refinery complex on the banks of the Danube in the northern outskirts of Belgrade.

A series of detonations that shook the whole city early yesterday sent a deeply toxic cloud of smoke and gases hundreds of feet into the night sky. In the opaque dawn the choking cloud could be seen spreading over the entire northern skyline.

Among the deadly cocktail of chemicals billowing over hundreds of thousands of homes were the nerve gas phosgene, chlorine and hydrochloric acid. As workers at the industrial complex in Pancevo panicked, they decided to release tons of ether dichloride, a powerful carcinogen, into the Danube, rather than risk seeing it blown up.

At least three missile strikes left large areas of the plant crippled and oil and petrol from the damaged refinery area also coursed into the river, forming slicks up to 12 miles long. Temperatures inside the collapsing plant were said to have risen to over 1,000C.

Nato said that the oil refinery and chemicals complex had been destroyed by a heavy air attack in the early hours of yesterday. Asked about the hazard from chemical smoke, Nato said there was "a lot more smoke coming from burning villages in Kosovo".

Belgrade scientists told people to stay indoors and to avoid any fish caught in the Danube, which, they said, would soon be dead. They said the pollution would spread downstream to Romania and Bulgaria and then into the Black Sea.

At least 50 residents of Pancevo were reported suffering from nerve gas poisoning and the Health Ministry was struggling to find gas masks to distribute in the suburb and surrounding areas. In the meantime, residents were told to breathe through scarves soaked in sodium bicarbonate as a precaution against showers of nitric acid.

Thirteen hours after the first of the explosions, the Yugoslav Army took journalists to Pancevo just as a thunderstorm broke over the stricken complex. Bolts of lightning shot behind the flames licking the charcoal sky in almost apocalyptic scenes. As the director tried to hold a press conference in the fertiliser plant's headquarters offices, panes of glass and other fixtures loosened by the earlier blasts began falling from the building.

The driving rain and sudden gusts of wind only increased the smoke and brought the toxic gases down from the higher atmospheric levels where they had been considered relatively safe. "This plant is 37 years old and this is our worst nightmare," said Miralem Dzindo as the flames reflected off the windows in the conference room.

On the wall was a piece of modern art depicting churches against a sky as crimson and infernal as that outside. "The sickness of the minds that did this to us is enormous. By taking away our fertiliser they stop us growing food, and then they try to poison us as well." He rejected journalists' questions about chemical weapons, saying that the plant was strictly non-military.

Mr Dzindo said a worse disaster had been only narrowly avoided: an airstrike three nights ago had grazed a tank containing 20,000 tons of liquid ammonia. If that had gone up in flames, he said, much of Belgrade would have been instantly poisoned.

Against the roar of thunder and the crackle of the burning oil refinery, the Serbian Ecology Minister, Dragoljub Jelovic, accused Nato of trying to destroy the whole Yugoslav environment. He said the pollution in the Danube and in the atmosphere over Belgrade "knows no frontiers" and he warned neighbouring countries that the poison clouds could soon be with them.

PETAR KUJUNDZIC / REUTERS

A towering cloud of toxic gases looms over Belgrade after warplanes, on the 25th night of the Nato onslaught, hit a petrochemicals plant in the northern outskirts of the city

WAR REPORTS

Serbian authorities say the cloud drifting from Pancevo over Belgrade contains ammonia, an alkali and an acid — nitric acid. If the wind changes, and if it rains, so that the gases are converted into fine chemical solutions, which can then be deposited and inhaled, the old, the very young and those with chest disease may suffer.
Dr Thomas Stuttaford......11

River Danube — ROMANIA — Belgrade — 50 miles — SERBIA — BULGARIA — MONTENEGRO — Kosovo — Former Yugoslav Republic of MACEDONIA — Adriatic Sea — ALBANIA

The Serbs are digging in for a long war. They know the territory better than Nato and will have at least two months in which to plot the defence of Kosovo before the alliance is in any position to launch a land offensive. 9

"The Serbs told us to get out and forced us to leave our possessions. They have burned down our house and we have nothing left" — a Kosovo Albanian family's plight mirrors the misery of thousands as Save the Children fly £127,000 of aid to Macedonia 13

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Brown orders audit of war costs

BY ROLAND WATSON
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

GORDON BROWN has ordered a running audit of the "fantastically uncertain" cost of the conflict in Kosovo amid fears that it could exhaust the Treasury reserves set aside for emergencies.

Teams of officials from four government departments are working full-time on estimates of the final total and its impact on the public account. Although the Treasury insists that all the scenarios investigated remain within the Government's public spending arithmetic, there are concerns that a prolonged campaign may force a rethink.

Defence analysts say the war has so far cost Britain an extra £50 million on top of the Ministry of Defence's day-to-day running costs.

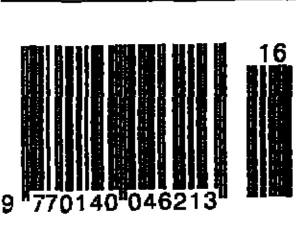
Paul Beaver, a spokesman for Jane's Defence, said that the cost was currently running at about £2 million a day, although that would soon rise towards £3 million as more troops and equipment were moved to the region. "They certainly weren't planning on having this long a war and the costs will only accelerate," he said.

Those estimates relate purely to the military action and do not take into account Britain's role in the current humanitarian effort. Government officials concede that if Britain does start to take in large numbers of refugees from the region, the cost to the Exchequer will rocket.

There is £1.2 billion in this year's contingency fund, but as one Treasury official stated, even in peacetime "the reserves have a tendency to be spent". The three-month Gulf War cost Britain £2.35 billion.

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Brixton bomber could strike again, police warn

BY STEWART TENDLER AND MICHAEL PATERSON

POLICE yesterday gave warning that the "vicious and reckless" criminal behind the nail-bomb attack on a South London market could strike again.

Senior police and ministers said that the bomber may have wanted to kill rather than maim his victims, and Scotland Yard has urged companies and shops throughout London to ensure that their security cameras are working in anticipation of another attack.

Police were given no warning of the bomb, which was left in a busy market in Brixton on Saturday afternoon, and no-one has claimed responsibility. The Yard has so far been unable to suggest a motive for the attack. Two of the 40 victims treated in hospital have serious eye injuries, and a 23-month-old boy underwent an operation to remove a four-inch nail from his head.

Police, led by Detective Inspector Maureen Boyle, are studying film from security cameras around the market in Brixton Road and Electric Avenue for pictures of a blond man who witnesses say left the device in a bag about 5.20pm. The Yard has appealed for more footage from cameras in the area and urged witnesses to come forward.

Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, said that the bombing was as "an outrageous act". Kate Hoey, the Home Office minister with responsibility for the police and the Yard, said that police had ruled out Irish terrorists, and she dismissed any links to the war in the Balkans. She said it was possible, though unlikely, that the attack was racially motivated.

Miss Hoey, who is also a local MP, added: "We have got to find out who did it. Because if someone is prepared to do that on a Saturday afternoon in Brixton, until we find that person, then it really is a very disturbing situation."

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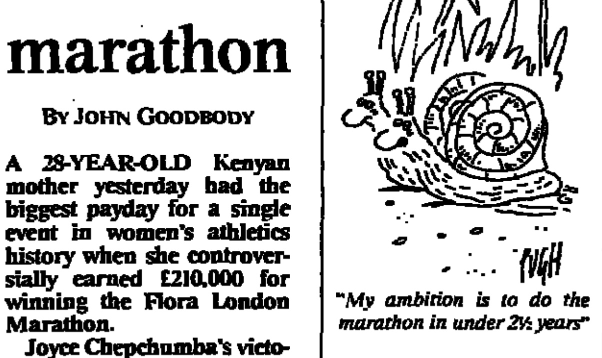
A record marathon

BY JOHN GOODBODY

A 28-YEAR-OLD Kenyan mother yesterday had the biggest payday for a single event in women's athletics history when she controversially earned £210,000 for winning the Flora London Marathon.

Joyce Chepchumba's victory in the women's race, in a time of 2hrs 23mins 22secs, came on a day when a record 31,582 runners started the 19th annual race, raising an estimated £15 million for charity. Abdelkader El Mouaziz, aged 30, of Morocco, *won the men's event in 2hrs 7mins 57secs.*

The thousands of spectators lining the 26.2-mile course also cheered the first couple to get married during the race Mike Gambrill, 46, and Barbara Cole, 43, began the event dressed in their wedding clothes before stopping for the ceremony.



"My ambition is to do the marathon in under 2½ years"

Rival runners, page 3
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Back welfare state, Lilley to tell Tories

BY ROLAND WATSON, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

PETER LILLEY will this week tell the Conservative Party to abandon the "Holy Grail" of trying to use free-market economics to run Britain's schools and hospitals.

Mr Lilley, the Tories' deputy leader, will say that the party must turn its back on Thatcherite zeal, and support education and health services as publicly run and publicly funded systems. He will say the party's "Achilles' heel" is that people don't trust the Tories to run public services because they believe the party wants to privatise them.

In a message that will alarm some quarters of the party, Mr Lilley will say: "Conservatives must renew public confidence in our commitment to the welfare state just as Rab Butler [the former Cabinet minister] did. But we will only do so if we accept that the free market has only a limited role in improving public services like health, education and welfare."

He will insist that the party remains the party of the free market. "But we also have to recognise the limits of the free market." He will pledge the Tories to funding the NHS with public money, ruling out any large-scale switch to a system of private insurance.

Mr Lilley's address, fully endorsed by Mr Hague, will come when he delivers the Butler memorial lecture to the Coningsby society in London.

Arms row will kill peace deal, warns Adams

By Martin Fletcher, chief Ireland correspondent

GERRY ADAMS gave a warning yesterday that, if London and Dublin insisted on IRA disarmament before admitting Sinn Fein to an executive, the Good Friday peace accord was "dead".

Mr Adams's warning, his bleakest yet, came on the eve of today's crucial talks at Downing Street. Government sources said that, unless Sinn Fein and the Unionists displayed flexibility on decommissioning, "parking" the accord over the summer would become a "very real option".

Such a move could also involve suspending key provisions, such as prisoner releases and the salaries of Northern Ireland's new assembly.

As the crisis deepened, Mr Adams, Sinn Fein's president, told state television in Dublin that the accord was in "freefall" and that failure to establish the executive would be a "huge mistake". If the British and Irish Governments did not reject Unionist demands for IRA decommissioning "then the agreement is dead".

Government sources acknowledged the perils of suspending the accord until the autumn. It could easily be wrecked by a summer of damaging election results, contentious marches and acts of violence. But unless the decommissioning issue is resolved by the end of the month, there will be little choice because the alternatives are even worse.

One would involve Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, triggering the mechanism for establishing an executive that included Sinn Fein. Without some IRA disarmament, the Unionists would walk away and David Trimble would probably resign as First Minister.

The other would involve Sinn Fein's exclusion from the executive. John Hume's nationalist Social Democratic and Labour Party would never agree to that, and to do so would virtually invite the IRA to break its ceasefire.

Tony Blair and Bertie Ahern, the Irish Prime Minister, will hold separate meetings with Mr Trimble's Ulster Unionist Party, the SDLP and Sinn Fein at No 10 this afternoon.

Sinn Fein has rejected the Prime Ministers' April 1 Hillsborough declaration, which sought to remove all connotations of surrender from the act of decommissioning. The two men will make no further proposals, but will be waiting to hear whether the parties offer any new ideas of their own or display any willingness to move beyond their entrenched positions.

"Tomorrow will be fairly crucial. It will be a major step down the road of assessing where the parties are," said one senior official. "If all they do is reiterate that the other has to move first, [suspension] becomes a very real option."

A decision on whether, and how, to "park" the process would have to be taken by late April. "Nobody is under any illusion that it's an easy option . . . To some extent we lose control of events," the official said.

The Rev Ian Paisley is planning to turn June's European elections into a second referendum on the accord and polls suggest a majority of Unionists would now vote against. The Orange Order's annual July 4 Drumcree parade will further inflame the Province and halting prisoner releases would enrage the IRA.

But the official insisted the peace process could survive. There was "a history of it being 'parked' at various stages and surviving. Inevitably, as we go further forward, the stakes become higher, but I think it's inevitable we will come back because no one has a viable alternative and everyone wishes to make it work."

Trimble may meet the Pope

DAVID TRIMBLE, Northern Ireland's First Minister, may become the first Ulster Unionist Party leader to meet the Pope (Martin Fletcher writes). The move would enhance his reputation as a statesman, but enrage many fellow Orangemen.

If the demands of the peace process permit, he intends to accept an invitation from Mikhail Gorbachev, the former Soviet President, to a two-day seminar for Nobel Peace laureates in Rome that would include a reception in the Vatican on Wednesday.

"I wouldn't be the first Orangeman to meet a Pope," Mr Trimble said yesterday, but such a meeting would anger many members of the Protestant organisation. One of the Orange Order's rules is that "you should not countenance by your presence or otherwise any act or ceremony of popish worship".

Some hardliners sought to discipline Mr Trimble and Dennis Rogan, the UUP's chairman, after they attended a funeral Mass in Buncrana, Co Donegal, for three victims of last August's Omagh bomb. In September 1997 Mr Trimble broke another taboo by meeting Archbishop Sean Brady, leader of the Roman Catholic Church in Ireland.

Politically, Wednesday's meeting with the Pope would help Mr Trimble by demonstrating his willingness to reach out at a time when Unionists and Sinn Fein are both determined that the other should be blamed for the peace process deadlock.



General Pinochet, left, greets General Ricardo Izurieda at Wentworth yesterday

Pinochet vows to fight 'sham' extradition

THE former Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet pledged yesterday to fight Jack Straw's decision to allow extradition proceedings against him to go ahead.

Describing the legal process a sham, General Pinochet said: "I will fight against this extradition with every ounce of my strength.

"I am innocent of the charges that I have been accused of and, in my capacity as a soldier of Chile and former president, I will fight to defend my honour and integrity and that of my country."

The Home Secretary announced on Thursday that he would allow extradition proceedings against the 83-year-old general, who is wanted in Spain on charges of torture and conspiracy to torture.

General Pinochet, who has been under effective house arrest in Wentworth, Surrey, since October, told *The Sunday Telegraph*: "I am prepared for a long battle, even if it takes two years. This process is a sham that makes mockery of the British justice system."

Ricardo Izurieda, the chief of the Chilean Armed Forces, flew into London on Saturday to meet the general. A spokesman for the Chilean Embassy said: "The purpose of his visit is to meet General Pinochet and I expect he will express his solidarity."

General Pinochet was arrested in London on October 16 on a Spanish warrant alleging human rights abuses during his regime.

The House of Lords ruled last month that he had no immunity from prosecution for crimes that are alleged to have been committed after December 1988, when the International Convention on Torture came into force in Britain.

The case returned last week to the Bow Street Magistrates' Court, but was adjourned until April 30 so that the general's legal team could study Mr Straw's decision to issue the Authority to Proceed.

The general's lawyers are considering whether to make a fresh application for a writ of habeas corpus, and are expected to seek a judicial review of Mr Straw's decision in the High Court. A hearing to seek leave is likely to be held at the end of this month or the beginning of the next. A full hearing may be held in June.

NEWS IN BRIEF

NHS 'discriminates against pensioners'

Ageism is rife in the National Health Service, with one pensioner in 20 refused treatment because they are over 65, according to a survey published today (Ian Murray writes). The Gallup poll for the charity Age Concern also found that almost two million people — one in ten — feel they were treated differently after they passed their 50th birthday.

The survey of almost 1,600 people over 50 found that many thought GPs were the main cause of their problems. Age Concern found one practice in Oxfordshire where no new patients over 65 were taken on to its list. A study of eight North London practices found that GPs were less likely to investigate angina among those over 75. "I was turned away for being over 65," one pensioner said. Another said: "You tend to be fobbed off and told that it's just your age."

Older people feel that they are not getting the care they need because money is short. "I was refused treatment because the money would be better spent on someone younger," one patient said. "It was a new treatment for cancer."

Sally Greengross, director general of Age Concern, said the "don't care, won't care" attitude experienced by so many older people caused huge emotional and physical pain.

The new NHS Bill, which goes before Parliament today, does not contain a clause outlawing age discrimination and the charity is calling for an audit of discriminatory practices as a first step towards improving standards.

Disputes culture grows

An American-style compensation culture is taking over in Britain which may be costing nearly £7 billion a year in payouts and legal fees (Frances Gibb writes). A report by the Centre for Policy Studies says that more people are turning to the law to resolve disputes with huge cash consequences.

Reforms to the way civil disputes are settled in the courts, which take effect next Monday, will exacerbate the problem because more people will have access to the courts, it argues. Frank Furedi, a reader in sociology at Kent University and the report's author, estimates that on the lowest likely figures the public sector spends about £1.8 billion on compensation payments and the private sector about £1.2 billion.

BBC admits mistake

The BBC has finally admitted that moving the Radio 4 programme *Yesterday in Parliament* to longwave and *The Week in Westminster* from its Saturday morning slot were mistakes. In an open letter to MPs, Sir Christopher Bland, the BBC chairman, admits that the loss of listeners had been much greater than expected.

"Whatever the causes of that loss, there is an unacceptable 'democratic deficit', which the BBC, with its special public service responsibilities, needs to address," Sir Christopher wrote in a letter published in *House Magazine*. Listening figures for the first nine months since the moves show that the two programme have lost three million regular listeners.

Minister in school row

Patricia Hewitt, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, was accused of using her government post to secure her son, 11, a place at a top secondary school in preference to alternatives closer to her home. Parents living near William Ellis school in Highgate, North London, have been angered by the decision. Ms Hewitt lives almost a mile and a half away in Camden, outside the school's usual catchment area.

The Tories said it was an example of the Government exercising choice in school selection while denying the same choice to other parents. Damian Green, Tory education spokesman, said: "It seems that, under Labour, only those who can pull the right strings now enjoy parental choice."

Couch potatoes in spin

A device designed to get chubby children off the sofa and doing exercise while still watching television is being pioneered in the US. An obesity researcher who came up with the "TVcycle" says early tests have helped youngsters to shed fat and reduce the hours they spend in front of the television. The sets were rewired to work only while the viewer was pedalling an attached bicycle while computers measure how long the televisions were on. The TVcycle is not, at present, on the market.

A British report has meanwhile found that a lack of exercise means obesity is reaching epidemic proportions. If present trends continue, the report says a quarter of the population will be classified as obese by 2010.

Teachers call for Woodhead inquiry

By Roland Watson
Political correspondent

ATTEMPTS by David Blunkett to put an end to damaging speculation about the future of Chris Woodhead appeared to have failed yesterday when teachers' leaders called for a criminal investigation into the Government's beleaguered Chief Inspector of Schools.

David Hart, the general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said that the Director of Public Prosecutions should investigate whether Mr Woodhead had lied under oath about an affair that he was alleged to have had with a sixth-former more than 20 years ago. He added that the police should examine sworn statements given to Mr Blunkett, the Education Secretary, by Mr Woodhead and his former lover, Amanda Johnston, saying that their affair began after they had left Gordano School, near Bristol.

"My members do not believe there has been a proper investigation into whether Chris Woodhead has lied in public and in a sworn affidavid to save his job," Mr Hart said

Mr Blunkett said last week that the claims ranged against Mr Woodhead were unsubstantiated and did not call into question his suitability for the job, but Mr Hart said that he intended to pursue the matter and would recommend such a course of action to his executive on Thursday.

Officials at the Department of Education yesterday refused to comment.





Joyce Chepchumba salutes her big-money victory in yesterday's London marathon although her fellow Kenyan Tegla Loroupe, right, recorded a considerably faster time over the same distance on the same day in Rotterdam

Winning woman nets $350,000 purse

Kenyan claims record prize with time rated as only 13th fastest race, report David Powell and Adam Sherwin

JUST who is the fastest female marathon runner on earth? The battle really begins after the exhausted athletes have passed through the finishing post.

The Kenyan runner Joyce Chepchumba earned $350,000 (£233,000) after winning the Flora London Marathon yesterday in what the organisers deemed a world record — yet she did not even run the fastest marathon by a Kenyan woman on the day, or even the fastest by a woman on the London course. Her time was also three minutes slower than that posted by a Kenyan rival last year.

Chepchumba won a $125,000 (£83,000) bonus for breaking the London marathon world record because the race organisers do not recognise times set by women in mixed races. According to the London marathon, a woman running among men is unfairly advantaged, or male-assisted; the chief offence being to run in between a group of men and get dragged along in their slipstream.

When Chepchumba pulled away to win, her time of two hours, 23 minutes and 22 seconds, ranked as only the 13th best for a woman on the all-time lists kept by the sport's statisticians.

But the London organisers have refused to acknowledge the time which all other marathons regard as world records: the 2hr 20min 47sec which Tegla Loroupe, Chepchumba's fellow Kenyan, ran in Rotterdam last year.

London marathon organisers believe that Loroupe's world mark was contrived because it was achieved in a mixed race and they say it should not be allowed. Given that the leading international men run marathons almost 20 minutes faster than the opposite sex, male pacemakers can assist them to fast times in various ways, such as by shielding them from the wind.

To add to the confusion, Loroupe was running again in Rotterdam yesterday and finished in 2:22.48, a faster time than Chepchumba's big-earning win.

Tim Hutchings, the London race administrator, said that the Rotterdam marathon offered unfair advantage. "Tegla was even being given encouragement by Jos Hermens (the race director) on a motorcycle riding behind her," Mr Hutchings said. "If we are going to say anything stands, we could cut the floor out of a double decker bus, and let them run 26 miles inside that, while passing them drinks and mopping their brows."

To earn her $125,000 record-breaking bonus, Chepchumba was merely set the task of beating the the 2:23.24 recorded by Lidia Simon, of Romania, in Osaka in January. She beat this target by just one second.

In taking its "purist" stand, the London marathon erased its previous own course record — Ingrid Kristiansen's 2:21.06 in London in 1985 — because at that time, the London race set female and male runners off at the same time in a mixed race.

Furthermore, London officials discounted the fastest time from a women-only race, the 2:21.46 recorded by Naoko Takahashi from Japan, because it was run on a point-to-point course, where wind assistance can be an advantage. That left Simon's time as the fastest on the list used by London officials. Chepchumba said that she considered her performance yesterday superior to Loroupe's 2:20.47, a view supported by Manuela Machado, the European champion and former world champion, from Portugal. "Joyce's time is more important," Machado, who finished third, said. "When Tegla ran in Rotterdam, she not only had two male pacemakers, but they also handed her drinks, so I value her time better than Tegla's."

One statistic is clear, though. In picking up some $350,000 dollars for her morning's work, Chepchumba earned more from one marathon than any woman before her. She collected, on top of her appearance fee, a $125,000 world record bonus, $55,000 (£36,000) winner's purse, a $25,000 (£16,000) bonus for breaking 2:24, and a $25,000 course record bonus.

The International Amateur Athletic Federation, the world governing body, has gone some way towards approving the unilateral step taken by London. Its cross country and road running committee has passed a recommendation, endorsed by the women's and technical departments but yet to be approved by its ruling congress, that in mixed marathon races, the men's and women's start times should be separated by 30 minutes. In that way, men would be unable to pace women.

"Men are not allowed to pace women on the track and there is no reason why it should be any different for road running," Alan Storey, the London marathon general manager, said. "This issue was brought to a head by Tegla's performance last year." A total of 31,562 runners — a record number — took part in yesterday's race ranging from world-class athletes to amateurs and fun-runners in fancy-dress whose only ambition was to cross the finishing line, set off on the 26.2 mile course.

By 5pm more than 30,000 had done so, beating the record for finishers set last year at 29,924. A handful of stragglers continued their exertions into the evening.

Later a spokeswoman for the race committee said unofficial figures showed the last runner had been recorded crossing the finishing line tonight with a time of eight hours, 56 minutes and 59 seconds.

She said the figures showed 30,750 people had been recorded as having finished, a record number.

A series of staggered starts saw the elite women begin at 9am, followed by the wheelchair athletes 15 minutes later and then at 9.30am the elite men and the mass start.

The London Marathon is the world's richest, with a turnover of nearly 5 million, and the competitive field is regarded as the finest outside the Olympics.

HOW THEY LINE UP

Tegla Loroupe (Kenya)	Joyce Chepchumba (Kenya)
Age: 25	Age: 28
Height: 1.53 metres	Height: 1.63 metres
Form: Set world record 2hr 21min 06 in Rotterdam Marathon, April 1998, to become the first African woman to set a world record in Olympic event.	Form: Won the Chicago Marathon last October and achieved her second victory in the London Marathon yesterday.
Marital status: single.	Marital status: married with one son, aged seven.

Million-pound man's alcoholic lunch turned into 6-hour epic

By John Goodbody, Sports News Correspondent

A SEMI-RETIRED business executive raised a world record £1,126,560 for charity yesterday by completing the marathon.

John Spurling, 59, was challenged to take part in yesterday's race by two friends at the end of what he described as "an extremely alcoholic" lunch at Langan's Brasserie in the West End last July.

He agreed that it would be worth the effort only if a substantial sum could be raised and both the Lord's Taveners and the Animal Health Trust used their contacts to help him secure the pledges.

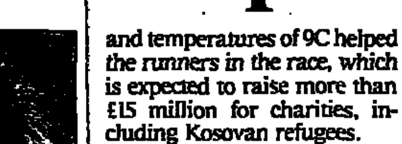
Mr Spurling, whose sporting experience in the past 40 years had previously been limited to the occasional round of golf, finished the 26-mile 385 yards in five hours and 56 minutes.

The two friends — John Bromley, a media consultant, and Richard Shepherd, the owner of Langan's, were at the finish to congratulate him. Mr Spurling said: "I think they owe me a serious lunch." Many of his friends and business contacts thought he was crazy. John Major, the former Prime Minister, told him that he had "lost his marbles" and Sir Denis Thatcher asked: "When's the memorial service?"

Mr Spurling, who had received training tips from Sebastian Coe, the former Olympic champion, and Lee Saxby, a fitness adviser, said one depressing moment was when he was told by a youngster at two miles: "Hurry up, you've got a long way to go."

He said that the first half was relatively easy. "Then along The Highway you saw people coming back on the other side where you were running and it came home to you that you had to go right round the Isle of Dogs.

"I went very much slower in the second half after doing about two hours 15 minutes for the first 13 miles. The atmosphere was terrific with all the steel and pipe bands and, although I started walking at about 16 miles, I just kept at it.





Spurling: took challenge at "very alcoholic lunch"

"I do not regret doing it, but I will never ever do it again."

The former England fottballer John Barnes, the former Olympic track athlete David Hemery and the BBC television sports presenter Helen Rollason, who has cancer, were among those who sent the runners and wheelchair athletes on their way.

Light winds, a dry course and temperatures of 9C helped the runners in the race, which is expected to raise more than £15 million for charities, including Kosovan refugees.

Among yesterday's celebrity runners was the former European boxing champion Spencer Oliver, who had to give up his fight career last year after nearly being killed in a bout.

The fancy dress element, which included many of the charity fundraisers, also included two 8ft pirates, five trees, a Lord Nelson, several rhinos and one competitor sitting on a lavatory. The oldest runner was the American Abraham Weintraub, 89, who finished in six hours 31 minutes and 36 seconds.

Most runners had left the course by 4.30pm, when the St John Ambulance reported that it had treated a total of 4,115 runners. Of that figure, 26 had been taken to hospital.

The winner of the men's wheelchair race was the Swiss Heinz Frei, 40, who also won last year's event. Monica Wetterstrom, of Sweden, won the women's wheelchair race.



The new Mr and Mrs Gambrill get back on the route

Running couple get hitched on the hoof

By Our Sports News Correspondent

THE London Marathon yesterday celebrated the first wedding in its 19-year history when Mike Gambrill, 46, and Barbara Cole, 43, from Croydon, interrupted their run to get married two miles from the start.

The couple, who were driven to the start at Blackheath dressed in specially made wedding clothes which allowed them to run easily, jogged the first part of the race before stopping for the ceremony at Charlton House.

They were congratulated by 100 guests before rejoining the race, posing every few hundred metres in their wedding outfits for spectators to take photographs. Asked just before the race whether their wedding night would be a little subdued, Mr Gambrill, wearing a lightweight top hat and tails, laughed and replied: "No, we are triathletes and we do things in threes."

The couple, who between them have completed more than 100 marathons, finished together, arm in arm, in 5 hourr 22 minutes and then went off to celebrate at two parties. They have already had a honeymoon in Sri Lanka and returned on Thursday to prepare for the race.

Mr Gambrill said: "We met through running, got engaged when we were running and so we decided to get married while we were running."

Explosion tests hard-earned social harmony



The scene of the bombing yesterday. Some local people blame the Iraqis, some the Serbs, while others suspect a link to the Stephen Lawrence case

Neighbours become suspects as multicultural community seeks answers, reports Adam Sherwin

"WHY US? Why Brixton?" asked Mensah, a black pensioner, as he scoured the front-page reports of Saturday's explosion outside a supermarket just behind Electric Avenue.

It was not the first time that the South London neighbourhood had hit the headlines but Brixton's residents were bewildered as to why they had become the target for an act of terrorism.

For years the area has been synonymous with urban decay, crime and the racial tensions that erupted into rioting in the early 1980s. But residents say that things have changed, with blacks and whites now living and working together peacefully, new businesses flocking to the area and harmonious relations with the police built up tortuously after years of mistrust. Channel 4 has just begun a a documentary series, called *Electric Avenue*, celebrating the characters who populate the area where the bomb went off.

"The tragedy is that we could all be back to square one," said Helena, a waitress at the Lido restaurant. "This place has really sorted itself out. Black, white, rich and poor all live together. This attack might be a response to the Stephen Lawrence inquiry, and I hope that there is no retaliation and people hold on to a sense of reality."

Theories as to who had carried out the attack were as diverse as the nationalities that make up Brixton. The first Caribbean emigrants settled there after the war, and approximately 110 languages are now spoken in the area, with Yoruba and Portuguese the most widely used after English.

It has become home to refugees from war-ravaged countries such as Vietnam, Somalia and Azerbaijan. The traders on Electric Avenue include halal butchers, the Salon de Love Afro-European hair and beauty centre and the El Shaddai cash and carry.

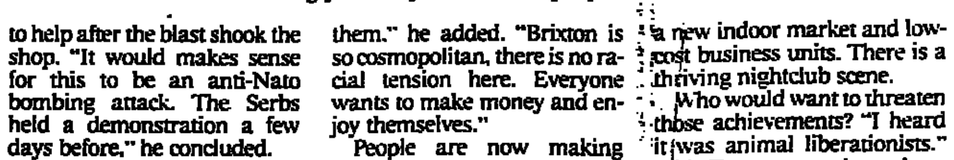
There is a small Serb population, leading to the suspicions raised by Dennis Reynolds, a stylist at Twin Barbers on Coldharbour Lane, who went to help after the blast shook the shop. "It would makes sense for this to be an anti-Nato bombing attack. The Serbs held a demonstration a few days before," he concluded.

"The black community does not think it was aimed at them," he added. "Brixton is so cosmopolitan, there is no racial tension here. Everyone wants to make money and enjoy themselves."

People are now making money in Brixton. Public and private investment has created a new indoor market and low-cost business units. There is a thriving nightclub scene.

Who would want to threaten those achievements? "I heard it was animal liberationists," said Tony, a trader whose brother was injured in the explosion. "I reckon it was the Iraqis," said Fred McLarnon, an Irishman.

As the residents search for answers, there is a new sense of unease on the streets. Religion plays a large part in the lives of the Afro-Caribbean community, and many went to church yesterday to seek consolation. The blast was almost apocalyptic, Mr Reynolds said. "The sky went black with thunderclouds and smoke. It looked like the end of the world had come to Brixton."



Scotland Yard rules out Irish terrorism link

By Stewart Tendler, crime correspondent

LONDON'S first serious bomb attack for three years left Scotland Yard detectives yesterday with a list of suspects ranging from Serb guerrillas to neo-Nazis and a lone psychopath.

Detectives cannot even be sure that the nail bomb attack on the Brixton market in South London was the target. The bomber could have got cold feet or feared the crude device was faulty and dumped it before the bomber reached his destination.

On Saturday night first suspicions focused on Irish terrorists. The last bombings in London were carried out by the IRA during its 1996 campaign which began with the South Quay attack.

The IRA has made nail bomb attacks on the mainland against Chelsea Barracks in 1981 and a cavalry unit in Hyde Park in 1982, when a car bomb packed with nails exploded and killed four. But police and ministers ruled out Irish terrorist squads or any other known terrorist organisations. Kate Hoey, the Home Office minister responsible for the Yard, said intelligence and forensic work had ruled out Irish terrorism. Ministers also dismissed the possibility of a Serbian attack. Douglas Henderson, the Armed Forces Minister, said he had no evidence of a terrorist cell in Britain and M15 and Special Branch assessments have never identified any Serb threat in Britain.

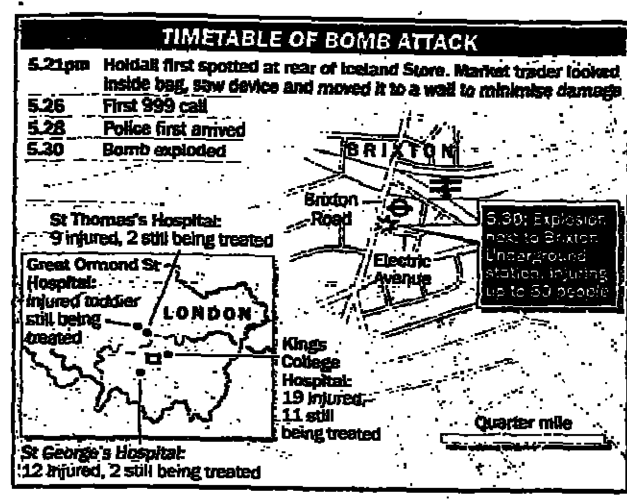
London has also been the scene of Middle Eastern terrorist attacks and Saturday marked the Islamic new year. Yet a market in Brixton would hardly be a suitable target for fundamentalists.

Lee Jaspers, a leading black politician, raised the possibility of a race attack in a traditionally black area. He pointed to a possible backlash after the Stephen Lawrence report. Most race attacks have been targeted at public figures. The most violent group is Combat 18 which has links to neo-Nazi groups.

The Brixton area is also the scene of bloody turf wars between drugs gangs including the Yardies. So far, however, the gangs have only resorted to guns.

An attacker such as the Mardi Gra bomber is also a possibility — or a lone bomber fuelled by unknown motives.

Nail pierces brain of two-year-old boy



A shopper's finger was torn off and two people may lose their sight, reports **Michael Paterson**

A BOY aged 23 months was recovering last night after surgeons removed a 4in nail from his head. Two victims may have been permanently blinded and a man lost a finger.

Nearly 50 people were injured, mostly by flying nails *and shards of glass and 39 of* them, including four police officers, needed treatment at three hospitals. Scotland Yard said that 16 people, including the baby and a girl aged 15, remained in hospital last night. The police officers were discharged.

Surgeons at the Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children *spent* 1½ hours *removing* the nail from the boy's head after nearly an inch of it had lodged in his brain. A hospital spokeswoman said: "The doctors are hopeful that the child will make a full and complete recovery *but obviously* it is early stages at the moment.

"They do not think he has suffered brain damage but he is being kept under 24-hour observation." The boy, who has not been named, was transferred from St Thomas's Hospital to the neurosurgery ward at Great Ormond Street, *where he underwent a brain scan to determine the extent of his injuries.*

He was expected to remain in hospital and his mother and father were at his bedside.

The spokeswoman said: "He has made fantastic progress. He came round about breakfast time and wanted to eat breakfast. Only a *child can bounce back like that* from an operation."

She said that the boy's family were very distressed and did not want to be identified nor to talk about the incident.

The two people whose sight is in danger had surgery at King's College Hospital in Camberwell, South London. *No details about them were* released.

> 'I heard this bang and my finger had gone as if by magic'

The market customer who lost his finger was Wayne Pegus, 55, from Peckham, South *London, who was shopping* for bananas.

Mr Pegus was 20ft from the centre of the blast when his left little finger was torn off and a 3½in nail was embedded in his back. The remains of his finger were amputated overnight at King's.

Mr Pegus, a divorced father of six, said: "I was just standing, *talking to a friend, and all* of a sudden I heard this great *bang and I looked at my hand* and my finger had disappeared. I thought it was magic.

"Then, when I realised it had not come back, I realised that something had happened. My finger was hanging there.

"It was shredded. I was really shaken and bleeding. It was terrible." Mr Pegus was helped away by police officers and bandaged at the scene by paramedics before being taken to the hospital. "I saw people lying on the ground screaming and *bleeding. It was just chaos,"* he said.

"I was just shocked when I saw my hand, and my finger had gone. I was bleeding all over my body and I felt a lot of pain. I saw all this blood pouring from my back and my finger was mincemeat." Mr Pegus needed stitches to the wound in his back and was *treated for cuts on both legs.*

He said: "I feel disgust about this whole thing. How could they do such a horrendous thing?"

He dismissed suggestions that the bombing may have been carried out by a racist far-right group as "codswallop". He said: "There were white people there as well.

"I don't think there's a racial motive. It could have been anybody *who was hurt. Unfortunately,* it was me and the other people who are in hospital now."

Nine patients remain at King's, four seriously injured in the face, spine or vital organs, or a combination of the three. The five others suffered have a mixture of flesh wounds, caused by flying nails and glass, and fractures caused by being knocked *down by the force of the blast.*

St Thomas's and St George's hospitals are treating two patients each.

Sister Karen Swinson, 27, who was in charge of the accident and emergency unit at King's, said that up to 100 staff at the hospital were dealing with the aftermath of the explosion.

*"We removed nails from fac*es, heads, legs and arms. There were pieces of glass. There were some very nasty injuries," she said.

Some of the wounded arriving at King's had nails sticking out of them in at least three places, a hospital spokesman said.

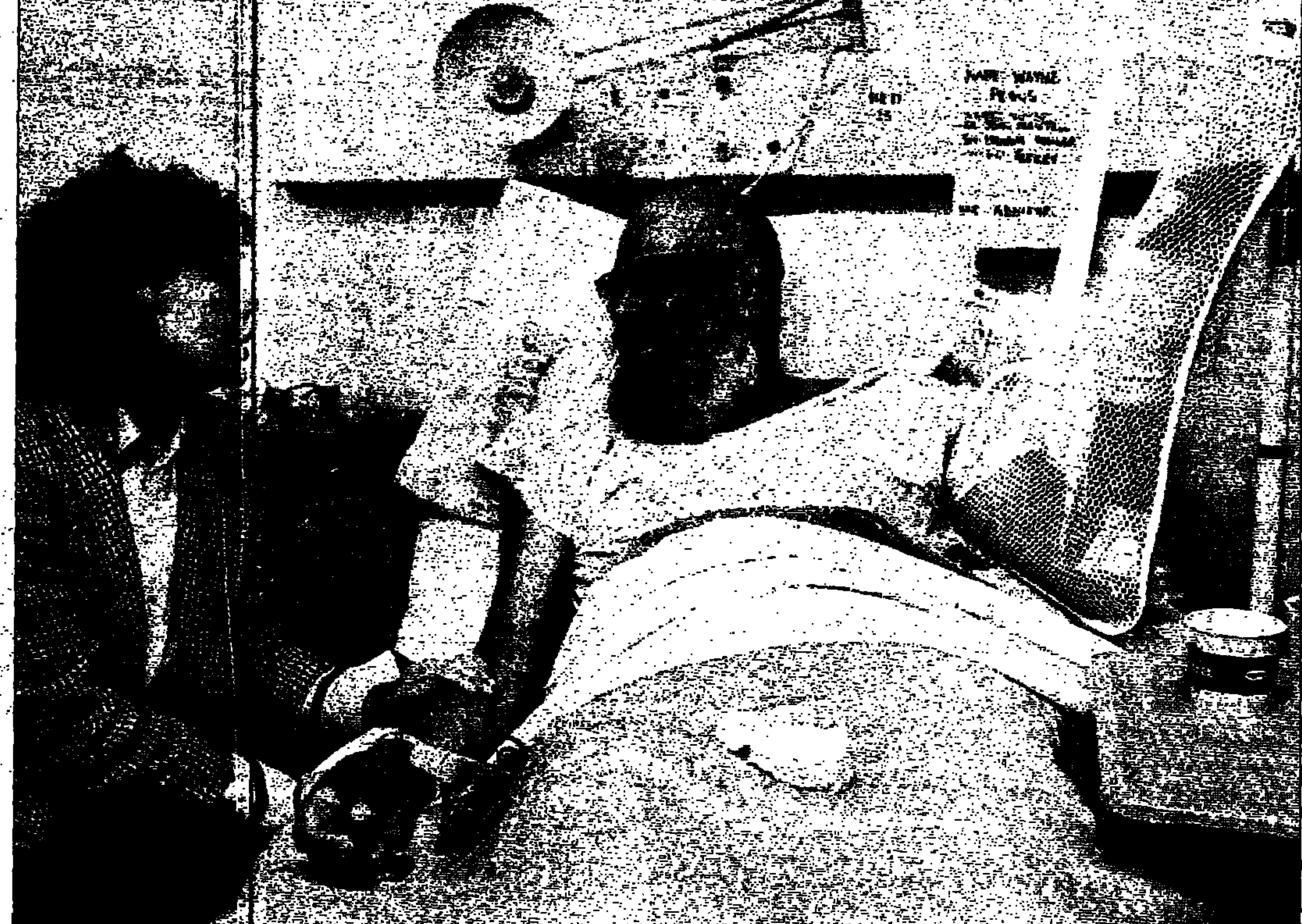
Michael Hudson, 35, who was 30 *yards from the blast,* sat in the sun outside the hospital yesterday drawing on a cigarette. He said that he did not want to speak at length about the traumatic events, but added: "One minute there was a bang. The next I'm lying flat and being covered up in a blanket.

"Now I'm going to be on crutches for several days." He had a nail removed from his left calf.

Leading article, page 23



Near miss: Mark Murphy's shoe was pierced by a nail



Wayne Pegus recovering from wounds to his back and hand. He had to have the remains of the little finger on his left hand amputated

Bomber 'may strike again'

Continued from page 1

Police have also ruled out any suggestion that the bomb was aimed at a particular shop.

The bomb has been described as crudely made and about the size of a sandwich box. Detectives said that it was not made with high explosive, which means the ingredients *could have been home-made* or taken from ammunition. The blast, however, was strong enough to blow a car aside.

Nail bombs have been widely used by terrorist groups and *details* for their manufacture appear on the Internet. There *are also reports that the bag in* which the bomb was left may have been stolen by a passerby minutes before the blast. The bag would be a vital piece of evidence if detectives found it.

Dennis Costello, who runs a produce stall in Electric Avenue, said that a bag had been left *next to his stall, and that a* 15-year-old stall worker had moved it, not realising what was inside.

Another market trader, George Jones, said that he also moved the bag seconds before it went off, in an attempt to protect shoppers.

"A *holdall was handed to* me by someone who said, 'Somebody's forgotten their shopping.' I unzipped it and opened it wide and I could see what it was," he said.

Night watch ends in Monet sunrise

Dalya Alberge joins the crowds who shrugged off sleep to enjoy Britain's first 24-hour art show

HORDES of visitors descended on the Royal Academy of Arts in the early hours yesterday for their last chance to catch a Monet sunrise.

The first 24-hour exhibition in Britain enabled thousands of people, who could not get tickets during normal hours, to see *Monet in the 20th Century* before it closed yesterday.

The country's most successful art exhibition, which has attracted an average of 8,300 visitors a day, opened on its last weekend from 8am Saturday until 6pm yesterday. Between midnight and 7am, the crowds poured in.

Young and old were there, some in prams and wheelchairs, others recharging their batteries with a short snooze on one of the gallery benches. Some had set their alarms for 2am, 3am, 4am and onwards; others stayed upright by sipping coffee or grabbing a hamburger near by until their booked ticket time.

Advance tickets were sold out but people were prepared to queue for those sold at the door. Richard Parker, an estate agent from London, who braved the cold for 45 minutes at about 3am, said he had promised himself that he would see the show. "It was worth it," he said. "I always believe you can spend too much of your life sleeping."

Every person questioned said that they would do the same it again. Yes, they were tired, but that was nothing against the exhilaration of seeing Monet's shimmering waterlilies and views of London and Venice. If anyone yawned, it had nothing to do with boredom. Simone Pitt, from Eastcote, northwest London, discovered that seeing an exhibition at that time had its benefits: "Because you're short of sleep, your senses are heightened. It's absorbing in a different way.

"My body is shutting down, so my eyes are taking in more. I'm looking at things with or without my glasses, squinting. It gives a different dimension to what I'm seeing." Dana Salinger, a photography student from Israel, said: "You think differently at night. You have different opinions."

A Belgian man said that his experience had been heightened by the alcohol that he had consumed. "They should have more activities like this. The atmosphere seems more relaxed at night."

Nigel Lingwood, a controller with Unigate, brought his wife and three young children at 3am. His nine-year-old son, Alex, particularly wanted to see the show.

He was not the only young enthusiast. Cato MacLean-Parker, 7, was so keen that he had woken his parents at 3am, an hour earlier than they had set the alarm. His mother, Sheena MacLean, said: "He told us, 'It's time to go.'"

Onlookers gathered around Cato as he sat cross-legged on the floor, making an extraordinarily mature copy of Monet's *Charing Cross Bridge*. With a fluffy rabbit clutched under one arm, he silently observed the picture and noted its details in a variety of crayons: a sun subtly emerging from the clouds might have been missed by another child, but Cato caught it.

Enrico Marconi, an Italian composer and conductor who lives in Britain, urged Cato's parents to send him to study painting in Florence and recalled how as a child of that age he had to beg his parents to let him study music.

Claire Drazin, from Burnham, Buckinghamshire, described herself as a "mad mother" who had been so captivated by a daytime visit to the show that she simply had to bring her husband and children, William, 10, and Sophia, 8. "We set our alarms for 3.30am," she said. For the children it was an adventure, but they came "on the proviso that we have a slap-up breakfast afterwards".

Iris Watts, a retired telephonist from Guildford, brought a cousin from Canada for a 4am viewing. "We have no regrets. It has convinced us that we're not as old as we thought. We're amazed at how many were prepared to stay up."

Catherine and Adrian Watson travelled from Stroud, Gloucestershire, and Angela Goodman, a medical receptionist, had travelled for 4½ hours on a train from Cornwall: "I would do it again, no problem."

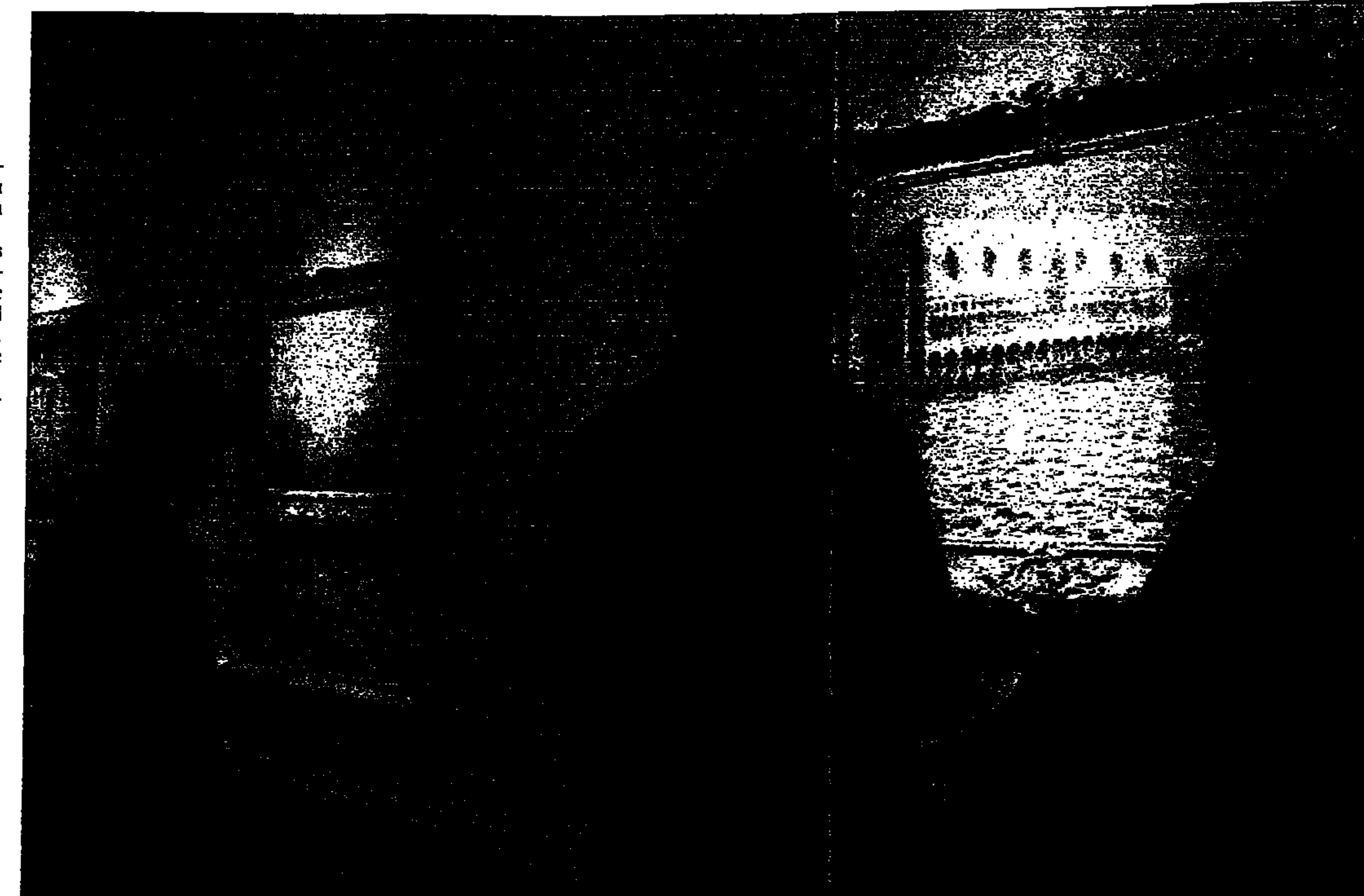
Chris White, a student of international politics, and Kim Wilkes, a nurse, came down from Nottingham and kept themselves going until their 2am admission slot by "drinking coffee and eating chocolate cake". They were catching a train back straight afterwards.

Exhaustion was taking its toll as time rolled on, but nobody was prepared to give in. At 4am, Vanesa Tate and Aya Yokomichi, students from the Royal Academy of Music, wished that they were "more awake". They rested on a bench after whiling away time in bars, McDonald's restaurants and other venues until entry time.

On the same bench was Elias Kupfermann, who works for local government and was planning to stay for four hours; he had queued for 1½ hours in Piccadilly. "It's quite tiring, but I'd definitely do it again," he said.

Clemmie Burtonhill, an art history student, had survived a night of clubbing in Leicester Square and 45 minutes' queueing. She sat momentarily with her head between her knees. Minutes later, she leapt up and was talking about going on to the Kandinsky exhibition in the gallery next door.

Nothing was going to stop these art lovers.


NICK RAY

Dawn visitors at the last day of *Monet in the 20th Century* yesterday. "Because you're short of sleep, your senses are heightened," said one

THEY CAME, THEY SAW, THEY SPENT

More than 730,000 people visited *Monet in the 20th Century* after its opening on January 23. The figure excludes tens of thousands who attended private viewings.

The Royal Academy of Arts drew an average of 8,470 visitors a day, making it the most popular exhibition held in Britain. The daily attendance exceeded even that of *The Treasures of Tutankhamun*, held at the British Museum in 1972.

The British Museum show drew a total of 1.7 million visitors, but that was over nine months; each day, *Tutankhamun* attracted 6,160 people. A Royal Academy spokeswoman said: "We were up to capacity every single hour." The academy's 1990 Monet exhibition attracted 7,003 a day.

Box-office income for the latest Monet totalled £3.9 million. The show cost £1.8 million to mount. The final profit is not yet known. Postcard sales reached 650,000, at 50p each. The bestselling was *Grand Canal in Venice*. The academy's shop sold 135,000 exhibition catalogues. Sixty thousand were priced at £19.95; an introductory version at £5.95 accounted for the rest. More than 14,000 people bought a Monet calendarfor 2000, costing £9.95 each.

The academy attracted 25,000 young people to its schools and educational workshops, and 55,882 of the exhibition visitors were under 18. A further 16,750 visitors had special needs.

Other popular merchandise included computer mousemats and mugs in waterlily designs, each priced at £9.95. But neither leapt off the shelves with quite the vigour of Philippe the Frog, a £9.95 cuddly toy that sold out.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Man held after killing

A man was arrested yesterday after the killing of a mother of two in Derby. The arrest followed a police appeal for information on the whereabouts of Mark Leicester, 37, who had not been seen since failing to return to Sudbury prison in Ashbourne, Derbyshire, on Thursday night. He had been released from Sudbury, where he was serving a life sentence for stabbing a girlfriend to death more than ten years ago, to spend a day working with handicapped children.

The arrested man gave himself up to police in Rhyl, North Wales, on Saturday. The body of Margaret Thompson, 38, a chambermaid, was found at her flat in Derby on Friday.

Glider drama

A birthday treat ended with two men baling out of a glider split in two by lightning near Leighton Buzzard. Peter Goldstraw, an instructor, and Graham Cooper, who had been given a flying lesson for his birthday, parachuted to safety.

Youth charged

A 14-year-old has been charged with the rape of a 49-year-old man, police said. The boy was also accused with indecently assaulting the man's 52-year-old female partner and with burglary. He is to appear at Lowestoft Youth Court today.

Animals dropped

Mary Chipperfield's conviction for animal cruelty has upset Sikh plans to have an elephant and horses in a parade. Organisers of a festival in Birmingham were to hire the animals from the circus family, but cancelled after the case.

Healthy interest

The Independent Television Commission rejected complaints about a live demonstration on examining testicles for cancerous lumps on ITV's *This Morning*. The commission said there was "a strong public health case" for the item.

Prayers for dying Cardinal Hume

Tributes pour in for a revered spiritual leader, **Ruth Gledhill** writes

CHRISTIAN congregations of all denominations across Britain joined in prayer yesterday for Cardinal Basil Hume, Archbishop of Westminster, who has disclosed that he is dying of cancer.

The cardinal, leader of four million Roman Catholics in England and Wales, who is suffering the advanced stages of the disease, said that he was determined to see in the millennium, which has been designated a "Holy Year" by the Pope.

Tributes came from Catholic, Church of England and other church leaders after the cardinal wrote to his clergy telling them about his illness.

Cardinal Hume, 76, who was appointed to Westminster in 1976, has responded with characteristic dignity to the results of hospital tests carried out last week.

In his letter to his clergy, he indicated his intention to continue working as long as he could. However, he cancelled plans to celebrate Mass in one of his parishes yesterday. Today he is expected to preside at a memorial Requiem Mass at Westminster Cathedral for the late Bishop Patrick Casey, former Bishop of Brentwood. Hundreds of worshippers went to the cathedral yesterday to pray for the cardinal.

Cardinal Hume has a busy diary for the rest of this month and subsequently. Next Sunday he is due to deliver a lecture for Cafod, the Catholic overseas development agency. He has many other interviews, Masses and celebrations ahead of him over the next few weeks.

The first signs that Cardinal Hume was ill appeared when he began feeling nauseous at mealtimes a few weeks ago. His thought at first that he had become tired of office food, but he mentioned to colleagues that he was feeling queasy and was admitted to hospital in London last week for tests. The results showed a cancer "not in its early stages".

Suspicion that he might be unwell began to circulate among the clergy after the hospital tests made him miss part of the annual "Low Week" meeting of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, which he heads. It was so out of character for him to be absent from the meeting that bishops began to suspect something serious was wrong.

After learning his test results, the cardinal wrote on Friday to his clergy and posted a copy of the letter on his website. In it, he says: "You may have heard that I have recently been in hospital for tests. The result: I have cancer, and it is not in its early stages.

"I have received two wonderful graces. First, I have been given time to prepare for a new future. Secondly, I find myself — uncharacteristically — calm and at peace. I intend to carry on working as much and as long as I can. I have no intention of being an invalid until I have to submit to the illness.

"But nevertheless, I shall be a bit limited in what I can do. Above all, no fuss. The future is in God's hands. I am determined to see the Holy Year in.

"This is an opportunity for me to thank you for all your friendship, your patience and, not least, your good humour.

"I know that the diocese has a great future. The Gospel must live again in our society. May that grace be given to us all in the Holy Year. You, dear fathers, have a key role to play in that."

The *Archbishop of Canterbury,* Dr George Carey, led the tributes to Cardinal Hume after the announcement. He said: "I am so sorry to learn of the nature of Cardinal Hume's illness. His faithful acceptance of the situation and his ability to look forward with determination and with hope is typical of the man whom we know, love and respect."

Lord Runcie, the former Archbishop of Canterbury, who has been living with cancer for five years, said: "I am full of sympathy for Basil Hume and eager to add my prayers to the many that will be said for him."

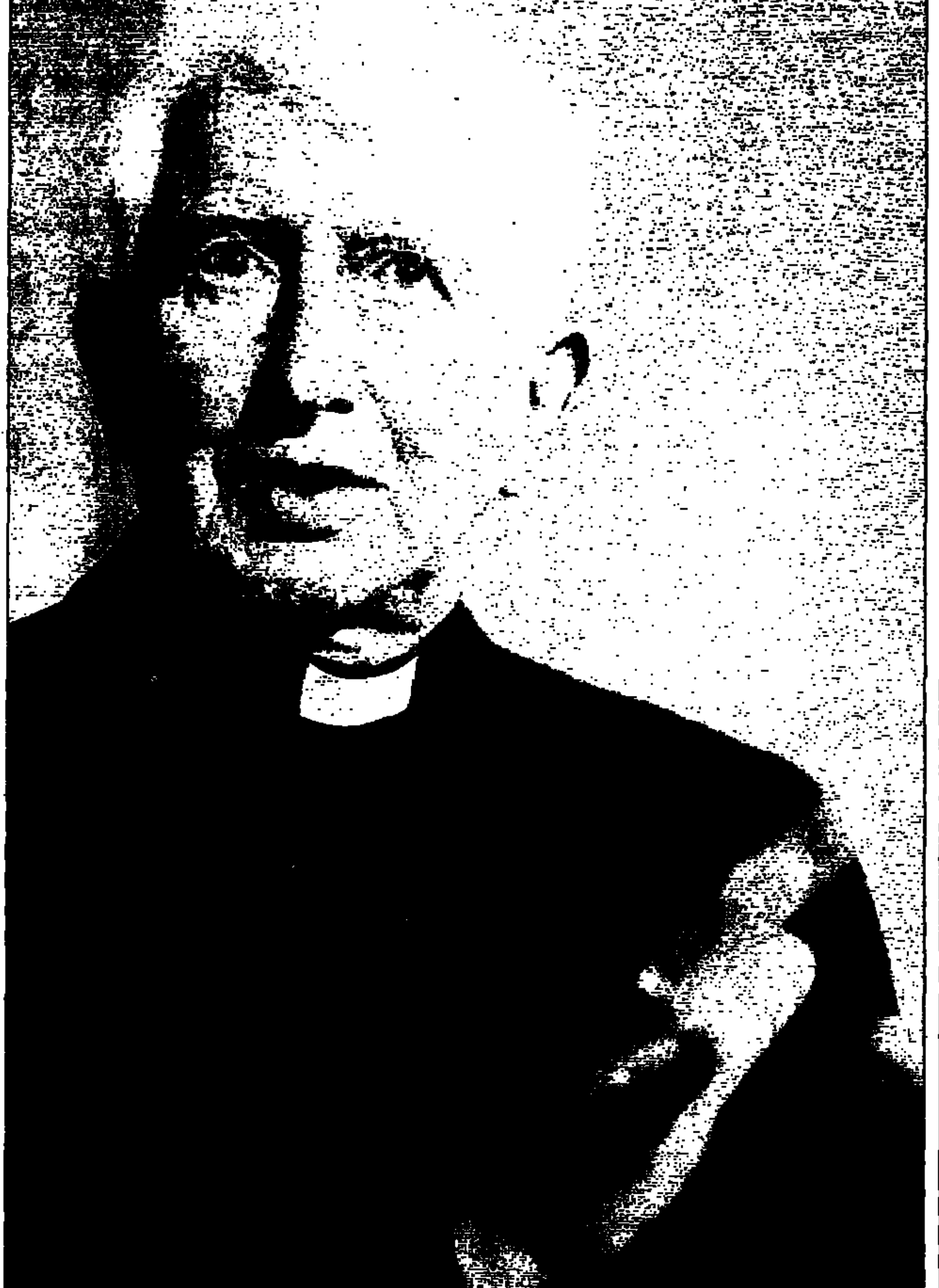
□ Cardinal Hume's website is: http://www.westminster-diocese.org.uk/cardinal/

SEARCH FOR A SUCCESSOR

THERE is no obvious candidate to fill Cardinal Hume's place as a respected and loved leader, although a search began months ago for his successor.

The Apostolic Nuncio (Vatican ambassador in London), Archbishop Pablo Puente, began working on the list of three names of possible successors to submit to the Pope for a final decision after the cardinal offered his resignation on reaching the age of 75 last year. The Pope asked the cardinal to stay on until at least 2000, an indication of the respect in which he is held, but work did begin on finding a replacement.

Those being considered are thought to include the Archbishop of Liverpool, the Most Rev Patrick Kelly; the Master of the Dominican Order, Father Timothy Radcliffe, OP, who is based in Rome; and the Bishop of East Anglia, the Right Rev Peter Smith.



Cardinal Hume — intends to carry on working for as long as his cancer permits

Granada defends suspects' holiday

By Tim Jones

GRANADA Television last night defended its decision to provide the five young men suspected of killing Stephen Lawrence with a holiday in a luxurious Scottish farmhouse.

The revelation that they were taken to the hideaway in Perthshire before their interviews with the journalist Martin Bashir were shown on the current affairs show *Tonight* has infuriated legal representatives of the Lawrence family and some politicians.

Imran Khan, who acts for the family, said they had asked him to look at steps they could take through the Broadcasting Standards Council and to consider legal action.

Sources close to the five said that they had been chauffeur-driven, taken go-karting, given tickets to a Scottish football match and played golf at expensive courses.

Granada said it paid Jamie Acourt, his brother Neil, Gary Dobson, Luke Knight and David Norris only £25 per head per day for their 15-night stay. Mike Large, for Granada, said: "All we paid for was accommodation costs, which came to £1,875."

But Jill Bristow, 65, the farmhouse's landlady, said it was booked for a month at a cost of £895 a week: a total of £3,576.

Roseanna Cunningham, an SNP MP, said: "I am appalled ... to know that these men may have been given a fortnight's freebie holiday."

Why men prefer their news back to front

By Alexandra Frean, social affairs correspondent

RESEARCH into gender differences claims to have solved the riddle of why men flip through magazines from the back, while women start from the front.

Puzzled about why men's magazines on newsagents' shelves had their outer edges curling upwards, while women's titles curved downwards, researchers from the Durrants press cuttings agency set out to discover the reason.

Observation of men at bookstalls and news stands and interviews with editors of men's titles revealed a simple truth: men are so conditioned to turning to the back pages of newspapers for the sports news that they have become virtually incapable of reading anything from the front.

Jonathan Shepherd, a director of Durrants, which reads nearly 200,000 newspapers and magazines a year on behalf of its clients, said: "This quite clearly indicates that the top stories should be at the end of the publication — a bit of a reversal of the accepted trends."

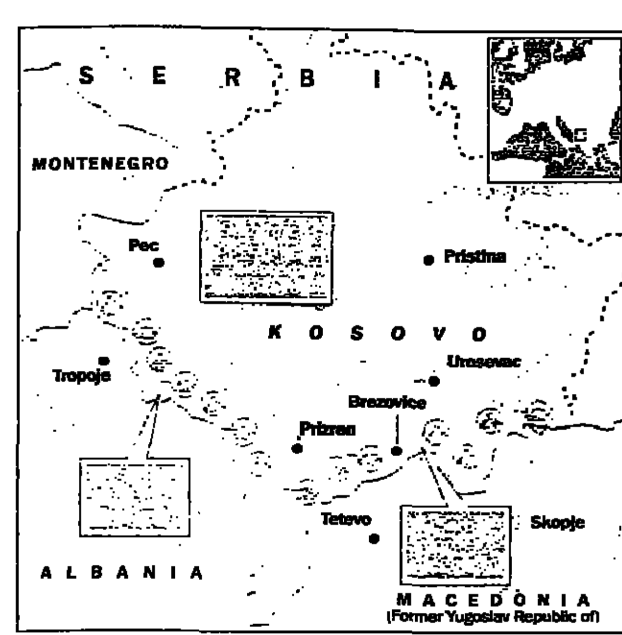
Bill Prince, deputy editor of the leading men's title *GQ*, said that the magazine had its sex page on the inside back page for this very reason. "The back page is nearly always the 'second entry' after the front cover, because men are conditioned by the position of the sports pages on the national newspapers."

Habits were changing, however, he added. "As sport starts to gain front-page status, things will start to change. Meanwhile, men continue to look under the skirts to discover the interesting bits as soon as possible."

Liz Hoey, spokeswoman for another leading men's title, *FHM*, said that the magazine placed its True Story feature on the inside back page because it was the best-read page. "Men won't look at the contents page in the newspaper shop. Instead they will dive into the magazine to find out what's going on — almost always starting at the back."

But Elsa McAlonan, acting editor of the women's magazine *Marie Claire*, said that, while men's conditioning probably stemmed in part from the position of national newspaper sports pages, other forces were also at play. Women, she suggested, were more logical than men and tended to savour their magazines, rather than rush through them for a quick thrill. "Women start at the front because it makes more sense. Men are impatient and think they are getting the picture quicker by starting at the back."

Serbs lie in wait for Nato



The alliance is pinning its hopes on the arrival of Apache helicopters to turn tide, reports **Michael Evans**

THE most ominous news for Nato is that the Serb forces in Kosovo are digging in for a long war, in anticipation that the alliance might change its mind about not undertaking a ground offensive.

The decision by the Serbs to start building defensive positions across Kosovo will make it even harder for Nato's air campaign to have any significant impact on Belgrade's forces there. The Serbs know the territory better than any Nato planner and will have at least two months in which to plot the defence of Kosovo and strengthen their forces, before the alliance would be in any position to launch a land offensive, were Nato's leaders to reverse their policy.

After a bombing campaign that has moved up several gears since March 24, there is no indication of Serb forces leaving the Yugoslav province. Indeed, there are some intelligence reports that reinforcements have recently been sent to Kosovo, bringing the total to more than the 40,000-man figure acknowledged by Nato.

In the week leading up to the Nato summit in Washington on Friday, the alliance has one remaining hope: that the 48 American Apache attack helicopters being deployed to Albania will begin to turn the war in its favour.

Four weeks of high-flying bombing — at never less than 15,000ft — must have proved to everyone in Nato that aircraft travelling at 500mph at that altitude can never hope to make much of an inroad against an army of 40,000 troops who are digging into well camouflaged positions.

Air Marshal Sir John Day, Chief of Operations at the Ministry of Defence, was honest enough to admit as much when asked whether air power alone could destroy 40,000 troops, armed with 300 tanks and large numbers of artillery and armoured personnel carriers. He said: "It's going to be a very long time before we can be absolutely sure that we have destroyed 40,000 troops and 300 tanks."

Nato says it is ready for a "long haul" campaign, but unless the attacks on the fuel depots halt President Milosevic's tanks and armoured personnel carriers in Kosovo and the Apaches can make a serious difference in picking off Serb troops and armour, Sir John's prediction provides probably the best reason for Nato to start considering other options — diplomatic or military.

Nato has had success in hitting fuel dumps and Yugoslavia's oil refineries, but sanction-busting oil supplies are coming into ports at Montenegro to make up for the losses.

Serb forces in Kosovo are settling in for a long war. Without any immediate prospect of Nato taking on the Yugoslav Army at ground level, low-flying Apaches will be the next best thing to an infantryman.

This is going to change the low-risk strategy adopted by Nato. Even at 15,000ft, every Nato pilot has had to face up to the threat of being shot down and no one can underestimate the personal courage required to fly through enemy anti-aircraft fire and surface-to-air missile attacks. But in terms of putting the maximum pressure on the Serb forces in Kosovo, there is no substitute for mixing it at close quarters.

To do so, even in an Apache with sophisticated defensive aids, will mean taking more risks. It is unlikely that Nato aircraft will have destroyed any of the thousands of shoulder-fired surface-to-air missiles that the Serbs have in Kosovo.

From sidelines, page 17
William Rees-Mogg, page 22
Leading article, page 23



The car in which the Kosovan family were travelling when it hit a mine lies on its side at the border crossing

Fleeing family killed by mine

Tirana: Five members of an *ethnic Albanian* family fleeing Kosovo were killed yesterday when their car hit a landmine at the Albanian border, international observers said.

Two boys aged nine and 13, a girl of 15 and their grandmother died when their vehicle exploded before dawn within sight of the Morina border crossing, the first incident of its kind.

The children's 35-year-old mother, badly injured in the blast, staggered across to the Albanian side but died on the way to hospital, Andrea Angeli, a spokesman for the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, said.

Her 44-year-old husband and their son of 11 were hurt. The boy was in serious condition and was taken by helicopter to Tirana, Mr Angeli said.

***Adem Berisha*, the children's grandfather, was later found sobbing alone near the border post. He told reporters he was in a car behind the one that exploded. (Reuters)**

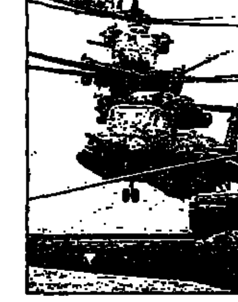
CHRONOLOGY OF WAR

This week

April 20: *Tony Blair to visit Nato headquarters in Brussels and* RAF base in Germany.
April 23: Nato leaders to mark alliance's 50th anniversary at Washington summit. Celebration overshadowed by Nato's first conflict.

April 18

Nato aircraft hit 36 targets between Saturday night and Sunday afternoon. Nato claims it has crippled Serbia's air defences and ability to refine oil. About 20,000 more refugees arrive in Albania. US Apache anti-tank helicopters start arriving in Albania. Nato asks for use of Bulgarian airspace for strikes against Yugoslavia.



April 17

Nato says at least 3,000 people have been murdered in Kosovo in the past three weeks.
UNHCR says it might need to airlift refugees to distant countries. Bad weather hampers most Nato airstrikes overnight.



April 16

Belgrade turns down UN peace proposal. Pentagon says it wants 33,000 reservists. Mass expulsions of refugees from Kosovo resume.

April 15

Nato says F16s dropped bomb on one vehicle in convoy that could have been civilian, but confusing account fails to explain carnage.

April 14

Nato aircraft kill ethnic Albanian *refugees. Belgrade reports 64 dead.*

April 13

General Wesley Clark (left), allied Commander in Europe, requests 300 more US warplanes.

April 12

At least 14 people reported killed when Nato missile hits a train on a bridge in southern Serbia. Serbia's largest refinery burns after missile strike. Yugoslav parliament votes to join union with Russia and Belarus.

April 11

Nato bombing slackens amid bad weather and partly in deference to Serbian Orthodox Easter. Belgrade says guerrillas are using Albanian bases; Albania says villages hit by cross-border shelling.

INVENSYS

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Invensys plc, Carlisle Place, London SW1P 1BX, UK. Tel: +44 (0) 171 834 3848. Web site: www.invensys.com All amounts relate to BTR 12 months to 30th June 1998 and Siebe 12 months to 3rd Oct 1998. Market values as at close of trading on 9th April 1999.

Airstrikes knock out Serb oil refineries

Charles Bremner reports from Brussels on Nato successes in hitting Milosevic's war machine

NATO has announced that Yugoslavia's ability to produce oil has been halted by a series of *"highly successful"* airstrikes carried out yesterday.

Among targets hit in 500 sorties by allied aircraft were 13 armoured vehicles operating in Kosovo and a large oil refinery located at the Serbian city of Pancevo.

"Milosevic no longer has the ability to refine crude oil," said Jamie Shea, the alliance *spokesman.*

Mr Shea added that the allied air offensive had now "broken the back" of Yugoslavia's integrated air defence system, reducing Serbian forces to makeshift methods for fending off attacks.

His comments came as reports emerged of Kosovo Albanian men being forced into chain gangs to dig graves for their murdered countrymen.

The alliance said that it had photographs to confirm reports that the men, dressed in red or orange jackets, were being forced to bury the victims of Serbia's ethnic purge in the province.

Nato's evidence showed 43 sites of mass graves in Kosovo. These differed from the open-trench graves dug previously in Serbia's ethnic cleansing, said Brigadier Giuseppe Marani, the military spokesman.

"These sites have neat rows of individual graves pointing to the southeast ... to Mecca," he said.

Nato also reported evidence that men and boys had been forced to work digging coal from mines around Pristina which feed the main power station providing electricity to the Kosovan capital.

The alliance remained on the defensive over its explanation for the attacks on refugee convoys south of the city of Djakovica last Wednesday in which some 70 people were reported to have died.

The Pentagon said on Saturday that the Brussels headquarters of the alliance had made a mistake in issuing a recording last Thursday of a pilot's account of an attack on a convoy north of Djakovica.

Insisting that the investigation was continuing, Brigadier Marani said that the tape had only been released to show a "typical" operation against ground targets and the type of precautions taken by pilots to avoid civilian losses.

To back up the point, he showed video footage of a pilot redirecting a laser-guided bomb away from a Serbian mobile radar unit at the last moment after he realised there was a church close by.

"This quick-thinking pilot was able to pull the weapon off the target and redirect it into a wood where it exploded harmlessly," said Brigadier Morani. However he declined to confirm that the original pilot's account did not refer to the incident that caused heavy loss of civilian life.

It was still too early in the investigation to be able to determine whether this strike had killed refugees or not, he said. His remarks added to the confusion around Nato's accounts of the Wednesday strikes.

Tension between the political directors and the military commanders was evident when Mr Shea voiced frustration over his inability to provide information on the convoy strikes.

"I would really welcome anything that could throw light on this business and put the facts *on the table,"* he said.

According to diplomats, General Wesley Clark, Nato's Supreme Commander, ordered a news blackout on last Wednesday's incidents pending the outcome of Nato's inquiry.

Mr Shea also expressed frustrations in combating President Milosevic's propaganda. "We have to check our facts. We have to correct our mistakes. Milosevic is under no such restriction," he said.

Tony Blair is to visit Nato headquarters in Brussels tomorrow as the alliance prepares for a summit in Washington on Friday.

Planned to celebrate Nato's 50th anniversary, the event would now be largely devoted to strategy over Kosovo and a future plan for stabilising the Balkans, said Mr Shea.



A cloud of smoke rises from burning oil refinery in Pancevo, ten miles north of Belgrade, after it was hit by Nato bombs.

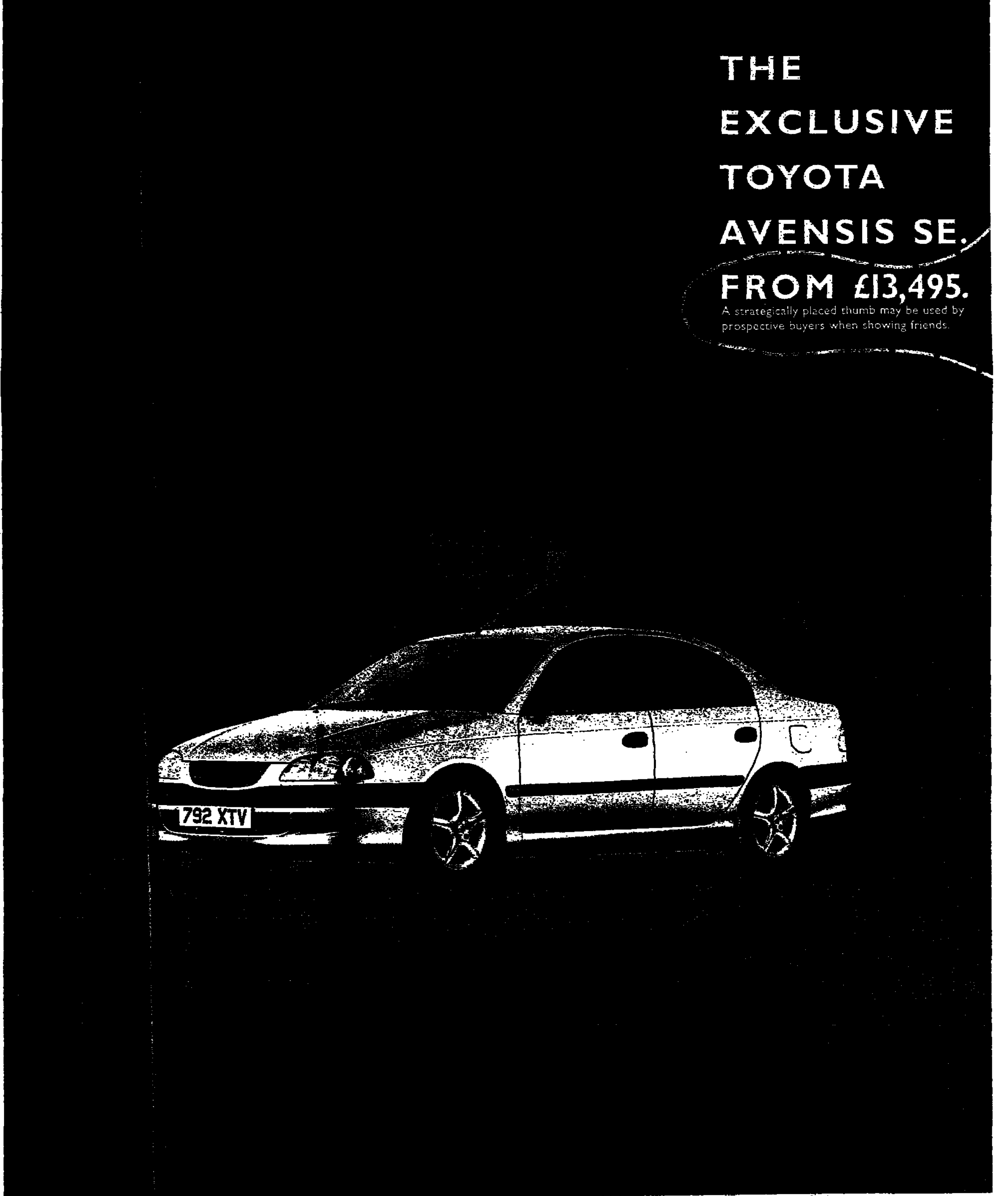
Chemical cloud threatens disaster

Disaster will be avoided, as long as the cloud of chemical gases remains several hundred feet high and nine miles away from habitation (Dr Thomas Stuttaford writes).

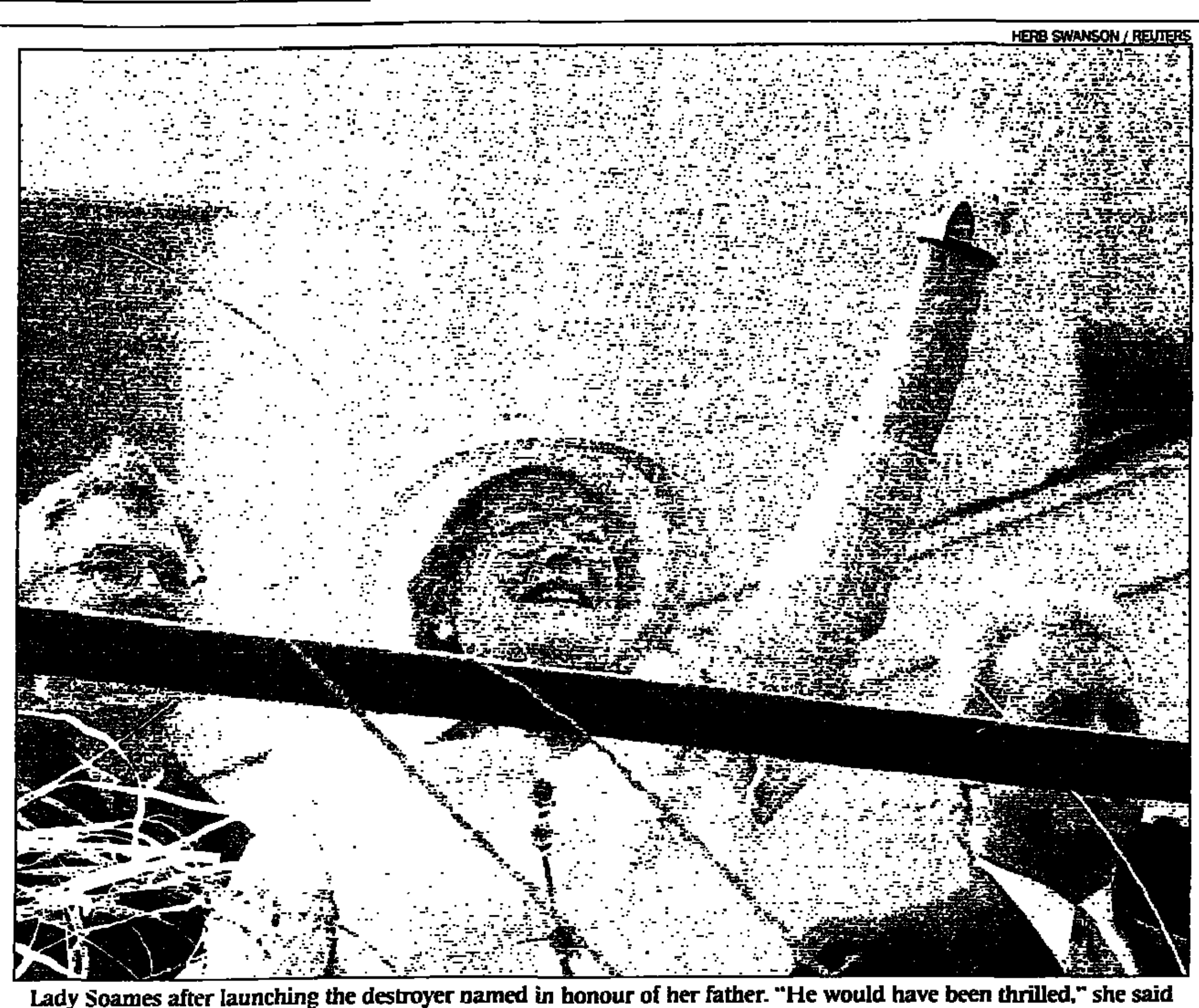
However, if the wind changes, and if it rains so that the gases are converted into fine chemical solutions, which can then be deposited and inhaled by the local population, the old, very young and those with chest diseases might suffer. The Serbian authorities have said that the cloud contains ammonia, an alkali and nitric acid. They have recommended that those without gas masks should impregnante homemade masks with sodium bicarbonate, so the greater fear must be the inhalation of nitric acid.

Chlorine, bromine, nitrates, chlorates, bromates, nitrogen oxides, hydrogen chloride, sulphuric acid are among other chemicals commonly present in smoke clouds from chemical fires. Chlorinated hydrocarbons — of variable toxicity — are also frequently present, and had the works been making agricultural products, antimony, arsenic and organo-phosphates are also likely to contaminate the atmosphere.

The usual advice is to keep indoors with the windows shut, wearing a mask, and after the danger has passed to wash all clothes that were being worn, and to copiously flush down any contaminated person's skin with soapy water.



HERB SWANSON / REUTERS



Lady Soames after launching the destroyer named in honour of her father. "He would have been thrilled," she said

Winston Churchill prepares to defend alliance once more

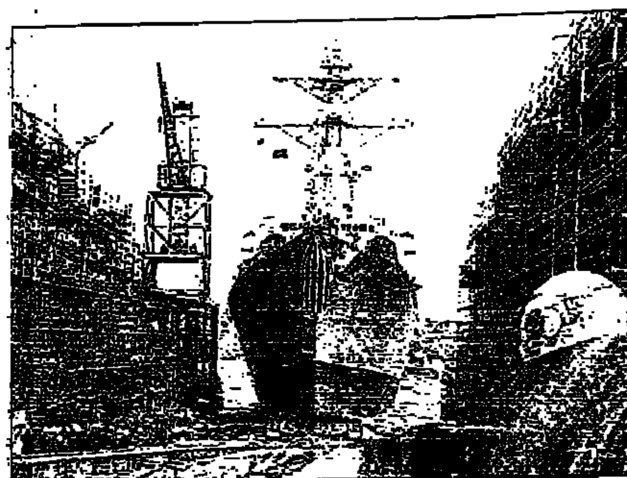
By Damian Whitworth in Bath, Maine

WINSTON CHURCHILL is back on the high seas as a force for war.

Britain and America's military leaders broke from directing the conflict in Yugoslavia to travel to Maine this weekend for a ceremony steeped in symbolism: the launch of the *USS Winston S. Churchill*, the most powerful destroyer to be built.

When she is fully functional early next year, the ship will be the pride of a US fleet that has not named a vessel after a British figure since the War of Independence more than 200 years ago.

The launch had been scheduled since 1995, when President Clinton announced to a joint sitting of Parliament in London that the ship would be named after Churchill to "ride the seas as a reminder for the coming century of an indomitable man who shaped our age, who stood always for freedom". But George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, William Cohen, his American counterpart, and a string of other military and political figures seized the opportunity to evoke the wartime leader in justifying the present campaign.



The *USS Winston S. Churchill* slides down the slipway

After almost four centuries of shipbuilding in Bath, on the American East Coast, launches are usually routine. But a combination of the conflict in Yugoslavia and the Churchill name brought a high-spirited and patriotic crowd of several thousand to the banks of the Kennebec River. A very small minority were peace protestors. Shops were doing a lively trade in cigars and memorabilia associated with a man who was made an honorary US citizen by President Kennedy.

The ship was launched b Lady Soames, 76, Sir Winston's only surviving child. "We did it!" she yelped as she smashed a bottle of champagne against the ship and danced a jig with her cosponsor, Janet Langhart Cohen, the US Defence Secretary's wife.

"I feel overwhelmed and I think it's moving that, more than 30 years after my father's death, they still set such store by him here," Lady Soames said. "He would have been thrilled and honoured. It is wonderful for his memory and for Britain. It *is* a special relationship."

Two British ships have previously sailed under the *Churchill name*: a destroyer during the Second World War and an early nuclear attack submarine. Neither is still in service.

President 'took no part in war plan'

As the conflict loomed, Clinton was distracted by Lewinsky affair, says **Ben Macintyre** in Washington

DISTRACTED by the Lewinsky scandal, President Clinton was not even present at the fateful meeting last January when a plan was formed to use the threat of air power to demand Serb acceptance of a peace deal in Kosovo enforced by Nato ground troops.

The White House meeting on January 19, at which Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, successfully argued for a much tougher stance against Belgrade, was a vital moment in the build-up to war. But Mr Clinton was preoccupied with his impeachment trial, according to a report yesterday in *The New York Times* that paints a picture of a President whose attention was focused elsewhere as Kosovo erupted.

At the January meeting Ms Albright overcame the reservations of other senior advisers and the plan, demanding Serb acceptance of Nato troops in Kosovo under threat of force for the first time, was sent for approval to Mr Clinton, who was at that moment preparing his State of the Union address while the US Senate listened to arguments on whether he should be thrown out of office.

The President might have made the same decisions with or without the Lewinsky imbroglio, but officials have acknowledged that the Clinton Administration's obsession *with the scandal made it harder* to devote adequate attention to the unfolding Balkan crisis.

Bob Dole, the former Republican senator, met Mr Clinton last September after a fact-finding mission to Kosovo but found that "a lot of attention was diverted" from the problem of Yugoslavia by the impeachment debate. Immediately after discussing Kosovo, Mr Clinton switched to the impeachment issue and asked for Mr Dole's help in drumming up support in the Senate against conviction.

The Lewinsky saga was "all consuming . . . this was a critical time in the Monica events", according to Mr Dole, who said he believed a proper assessment of the deteriorating Kosovo situation "may have been one of the casualties" of the scandal.

White House officials have also conceded that when violence began spreading in Kosovo early in 1988, the administration's energies were deployed elsewhere.

"I hardly remember Kosovo in political discussions. It was all impeachment, impeachment, impeachment. There was nothing else," one presidential adviser told *The New York Times*.

By August 1998, some officials were issuing stark warnings, but again domestic and other concerns intervened. Alexander Vershbow, the US representative to Nato, sent a cable calling for an international protectorate in Kosovo enforced by a Nato-Russian peacekeeping force.

The cable, which came to nothing, coincided with the bombing of American embassies in East Africa and Mr Clinton's preparations for his appearance before the Grand Jury investigating the Lewinsky affair.

With the President coming under increasing criticism for failing to act swiftly enough in Kosovo, officials have signalled a shift in emphasis towards an open acknowledgement of the need to remove President Milosevic from power. Military officials have also voiced support for the KLA rebels, predicting a "resurgent" guerrilla force *will tip* the scales against the Yugoslav Army.

The President is now predicting that the region will never have stability with Mr Milosevic in power. "Our campaign will continue, shifting the balance of power against him until we succeed," Mr Clinton wrote in *The Sunday Times*.

"Ultimately, Mr Milosevic must either cut his mounting losses or lose his ability to maintain his grip on Kosovo".

US officials met in secret *with KLA members earlier* this month to discuss the possible provision of anti-tank weapons and other support, according to a report in *US News & World Report* magazine. The White House refused to comment on the claim.

Gerhard Schröder, the German Chancellor, has accused some Nato allies of not acting to break off trade with Mr Milosevic despite the hostilities, in an apparent reference to a failure by Hungary — which joined the alliance on March 12 — to stop the flow of oil and gas through its territory to Yugoslavia.

"This is unacceptable. We cannot be at war with a country and let a pipeline that runs through a Nato member country supply the adversary."

LINKS

http://www.mod.uk/news/kosovo Ministry of Defence site dedicated to Kosovo conflict

http://nato.int/ Nato website with speeches and latest updates

http://www.mediacentar.org Pristina based agency giving news and analysis from Serb view

http://www.zik.com/rubrika.htm Kosovo Liberation Army website offering declarations and interviews.

http://www.iwpr.net Institute for War and Peace Reporting. Independent group with wide range of reports on war, human rights and censorship.

Mercy flights feed hungry mouths

Joanna Bale in Tetovo watches grateful mothers receive supplies of food and clothing flown in by British charities

THREE days after the first Save the Children aid flight left Kent for Macedonia. one-year-old Valmir Halili gurgled with delight as his mother swapped his tattered shoes for a new pair of sturdy boots.

Having fled the flaming ruins of Pristina with only the clothes they stood up in. he and his mother, Tefta, were at the head of the queue for one of the first aid packages paid for by the British public after the record-breaking appeal by the Disasters Emergency Committee, which has raised £14 million.

"It gives me hope when people so far away are helping me to care for my son," said Mrs Halili, 22, tears welling in her eyes as she examined the contents of a bag of baby food, nappies and clothes at a distribution centre in the Macedonian town of Tetovo. "The Serbs told us to get out at once and forced us to leave all our possessions. They have burnt down our house and we have nothing left. I have no idea whether my parents, brothers and sisters are alive or dead."

Mrs Halili and her husband, Bujar, a former electronics company worker, fled Kosovo with Valmir and his brother Valon, three, at the beginning of the Nato bombing. They are among an estimated 50,000 refugees who have avoided the squalor of the border camps after being offered rooms with host families in Macedonia. For the past two weeks they have been living in unbearably cramped conditions with five other refugees and 15 members of a family in a six-room house.

"Every Albanian family in Tetovo has many refugees living with it," the head of the family, Mamut Lika, said. "It is up to us to do everything we can."

Mrs Halili had been among hundreds of women with young children who received the aid packages from Britain at a distribution scentre run by El-Hilal, an Albanian charity. Mike Gaouette, emergency project manager for Save the Children, said: "While lots of aid has been reaching the camps, we wanted to target the hidden population of refugees living with host families, most of whom have received nothing — which is why we are working with a local charity to distribute it in the towns and villages where it is needed most."

About 1,500 Family Aid kits worth £127,000 were flown to the Macedonian capital of Skopje on Wednesday in a DC8, chartered by Save the Children at a cost of £32,000. A further 1,500 kits destined for an onward journey to the Albanian capital, Tirana, were brought in by road.

As the aircraft taxied into Skopje airport, its captain, Ian Peacock, who usually delivers fresh fruit and flowers from Nairobi to London for Marks & Spencer, was overawed by the view from the cockpit of hundreds of refugees being herded on to flights within Europe, most of them without luggage.

"It's only when you see it that the scale of the tragedy hits you," he said. "I've done aid flights to Central America after the hurricane and to Iran after the earthquake, but those were natural disasters. This is so much more sinister."

With an impressive show of efficiency, British and French Nato troops were on standby to unload the 20 tonnes of cardboard boxes and they were taken by forklift trucks to waiting lorries. Overseeing the operation was Ted Billsborough, a Yorkshireman, in charge of logistics for Save the Children.

One beneficiary, Serbeze Gashi, 27, who was with Leonora, three, and Albina, 8 months, said: "I used to be a middle-class housewife bringing up my two children while my husband went out to work. That is all gone. I thank God for this help."

PETER NICHOLLS



Valmir Halili, aged one, finds food and new clothing in Albania

Europe takes more evacuees

FROM STEPHEN FARRELL IN SKOPJE

REFUGEE agencies said last night that they were planning more flights of Kosovan refugees to other European countries, giving warning that border camps in Macedonia were "bursting at the seams".

A spokesman in Macedonia for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees said that Brazde, Stenkovec and other tented villages north of the capital, Skopje, were full with tens of thousands of refugees. Macedonian guards were refusing to let any more cross the border. The UNHCR account was backed by a crowd of 3,000 Kosovans who said that a baby died when Macedonian police kept them waiting in the snow for eight hours in a remote mountain area. The UNHCR said that a man suffered a heart attack after he was one of 500 people kept overnight in no man's land near the Jazince border crossing because Macedonian guards claimed there was no space in the camps.

Ron Redmond, of the UNHCR, said that the agency would look at expanding evacuation flights to include countries such as The Netherlands, Spain and Portugal, and had held discussions with Britain. The German quota of 10,000 had been filled. Offers from further afield, such as America and Canada, would be "kept in the bank".

WHERE HAVE THEY GONE?

Population of Kosovo (1991 census)	1,956,196
Ethnic Albanians in Kosovo (unofficial estimate)	1,800,000+
Displaced from Kosovo homes in past year (NATO, Friday)	960,000
Fled or expelled from Kosovo since NATO began air attacks on Yugoslavia on March 24 (UNHCR, Saturday)	573,300
Fled or expelled from Kosovo since fighting began in March 1998 (UNHCR, Friday)	700,000
Surrounding countries with substantial refugee numbers:	
In Albania (UNHCR, Saturday)	339,000
In Macedonia (Macedonian Interior Minister, Friday)	130,000
In Montenegro (UNHCR, Friday) 74,200	
In Bosnia, including Yugoslav Muslims (UNHCR, Saturday)	32,300
In Turkey (Wednesday)	10,291
In Croatia (UNHCR, April 11)	56,000
In Bulgaria (UNHCR, April 11)	2,300

Numbers from governments and international organisations

Red tape thwarts aid effort

FROM SAM KILEY IN MORINE

ALREADY caught off balance by the flood of more than 350,000 refugees into Albania over the past three weeks, aid agencies are in danger of being swamped by a renewed tide of victims who have been stranded without shelter in appalling weather.

Refugees crossed the Morine border post yesterday at a rate of 1,000 an hour before Serb security forces inexplicably shut off the flow. In the absence of aid workers, journalists stepped in to hand out plastic sheeting to freezing and exhausted people already drenched after days in the open.

Others used their vehicles to carry the elderly and sick, many of them suffering from hypothermia, to a tiny field hospital set up by the Italian Army — the only visible sign of the 8,000 Nato troops promised for humanitarian relief.

Faced with poor planning and bureaucratic hold-ups at the headquarters of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Geneva and the United Nations World Food Programme in Rome, field officers freely admit that they cannot cope with the exodus from Kosovo.

"It is outrageous. We have the wrong sort of sheeting, and to make matters worse, we have run out of it. There have been rows with Geneva over this but our frustrations have just earned us reprimands," said a senior UNHCR field worker.

At first glance the type of plastic sheeting used for shelter might appear to be trivial. But to a refugee who has been walking for days and has left home, murdered relatives and identity papers behind, plastic sheeting represents the difference between another night of agony and relative comfort.

The Albanian authorities have been anxious to keep the refugees moving so that they do not concentrate in the small border town of Kukes. Its population has already doubled and yesterday aid workers were expecting an influx of a further 50,000 to 80,000 people.

Last night families huddled under blankets in the town's streets and already medical workers have given warning of outbreaks of hepatitis, pneumonia and dysentery.

BALKANS SUMMARY

Vatican blames Belgrade

Rome: The Vatican declared that Belgrade had caused the Kosovo conflict by engaging in the atrocity of "ethnic cleansing". *L'Osservatore Romano*, the Vatican newspaper, condemned the Milosevic Government for its "policy of violence, deportations and murder". Officials said that the Pope still advocated an end to bombing by Nato.

Embassy ban

Yugoslavia broke off diplomatic relations with Albania for putting air space and territory at the disposal of Nato. Albania called the move unacceptable and said it would continue to support the alliance.

Admiral's blast

Madrid: Rear-Admiral Angel Tello Valero, of Spain, has become the first senior Nato officer to express dissent over the war. He said that he considered it to be "a total disaster".

Crew protest

Five crew refused to sail with a Greek destroyer due to join Nato squadrons in the Adriatic. The men, who said they were "prevented by reasons of conscience", face a court martial.

Life copies art

Belgrade: The US film *Wag the Dog*, about a fake war, won top award from the Yugoslavian Academy of Film, Arts and Science. It said the plot had become tragic reality. *(AFP)*

Nato beer ban

Moscow: Traders in Kaliningrad, the Russian enclave in the Baltics, have refused to sell beer to tourists from Nato countries as a gesture of support for their fellow Slavs.

'Road rage' killer's confession dismissed by victim's family

By Adam Sherwin

THE family of the man murdered by Tracie Andrews yesterday accused her of trying to "save her own skin" after she finally confessed to the killing, in a letter from prison.

Andrews, who was jailed for life in 1997 for the murder of Lee Harvey after claiming that an unknown "road rage" killer had stabbed him 35 times, wrote that she had "lost all control". The 30-year-old convicted killer, from Alvechurch, Worcestershire, said in the letter that she had felt sick as she cradled her dying fiancé on the roadside after the attack in December 1996.

At her trial at Birmingham Crown Court in 1997, the former model vehemently denied involvement in Harvey's death. Her confession to the killing, which was sent to the *News of the World* 21 months after her conviction, infuriated he parents, because she claimed that he was a violent aggressor who had pulled a knife on her.

Harvey's mother, Maureen, 53, said: "She hasn't confessed because she's turning to religion or is remorseful — she is doing it to save her skin. She knows that she's got to admit her crime before she can be considered for parole. That is why she's done it."

While police were still seeking the mythical "road-rage" killer, Mrs Harvey had supported Andrews at a press conference, not knowing that Andrews had killed her son. Yesterday Mrs Harvey said: "I wanted to believe that Lee had been killed in a road-rage attack. My motherly instinct told me to give her the benefit of the doubt. Now, with the confession, I feel stripped of everything."

Ray Harvey, Lee's father, 54, said: "Finally — now the truth has come out — our son can rest in peace. We have always known Tracie would one day admit her guilt. At least now the rest of the world knows what she is. She is a lying, evil, murdering bitch."

The letter says that Andrews flew into a rage after arguing with Harvey about her former lover, Andy Tilston, while driving back from a pub. As the row turned into a fight, she claims that Harvey produced a knife and threatened her with it, and that he dropped it in the scuffle. She wrote: "I fell. I saw the knife on the floor, picked it up and when he went for me again I just reacted with the knife. I must have stabbed him."

Andrews then decided to concoct the story about a "road-rage" killer. "My whole life had ended . . . I knew I had to make it look as though we had been attacked," the letter read.

Andrews went on to say that had she not lied to police she might now have been serving a sentence for manslaughter instead of murder. She said she had wanted to confess because "the more I keep things bottled up inside the worse I'm making myself feel".

The letter said that Lee got out of the car and pulled a knife. He "grabbed my hair. He said, 'See if Andy wants you with a ****ed up face' He had a knife and I was scared.

"With that I kneed him, he fell down and pulled me down too . . . He punched me again, I fell, I saw the knife on the floor, picked it up and when he went for me again I just reacted with the knife. I must have stabbed him then he stood still . . . and hit me so hard I fell again. I just went mad.

Andrews wrote: "I went back over to Lee and tried talking, shaking him. I could hear him breathing in a bad way. I saw his eyes go to the back of his head, I could smell this awful smell and I felt the wetness on my hands.

"I knew the police would take me away."

After the killing a man came to help. "I made up a story about us being attacked. I went to the hospital, I flushed the knife down the toilet."

Andrews gave the false story to the police. The letter reads: "I do feel I should have been convicted of manslaughter. I should have told the truth in the first place and used my defence."

She subsequently attempted suicide.

The Harvey family denied that their son had carried a knife. Ray Harvey said: "It is a complete fairy-tale. I believe she had taken the knife out with her."

Both Andrews's solicitor and the *News of the World* declined to comment on how the letter had reached the newspaper and whether it would be the subject of any payment.



DAVID RURNER

Lee Harvey's parents and sister Michelle at his graveside yesterday. They rejected Tracie Andres's claim, in a letter from prison, that he had carried a knife



Andrews with Lee Harvey, whom she admits killing

Beatrice: can stay until her eggs hatch

Council fails to break its duck

A DUCK *holding up* a £15 million millennium project was sitting pretty yesterday after being saved from eviction.

A dispute broke out after the mallard, named Beatrice, laid eggs in an ancient spa pool in Bath shortly before renovation work funded by the national lottery was to start. Council chiefs wanted the duck removed so that they could start water tests, but spa staff demanded that she be allowed to stay until her eggs had hatched.

Yesterday Beatrice's supporters were celebrating after the Department of the Environment refused to grant the council a licence to move her.

Margaret Stewart, of the Springs' Foundation, said: "It is a victory for common sense. Nobody wanted her to be moved. Now she can sit in peace until the eggs hatch in May.

"And she will be there for a few weeks after that as she teaches her little ones how to fly", she added. "Everyone who has been involved in this is absolutely delighted and Beatrice herself looks extremely happy with the decision."

The council wants to restore the 2,000-year-old pool to its former glory, but the project — already £1.5 million over budget — came to a halt when Beatrice laid her eggs in a flowerpot beside Cross Bath. Now the council will have to carry out the work around the duck without disturbing her.

Colleges to seek higher tuition fees

By Elizabeth Judge and Christine Middap

UNIVERSITIES believe that they have weathered the impact of £1,000 tuition fees and are ready to lobby for higher charges in the next Parliament, a survey by *The Times* has shown.

Fears that dropout rates would soar as students were faced with their first bills have proved unfounded, university officials said. Applications from school leavers have also held up, although the fees appear to have deterred many older applicants.

Detailed figures, published today in the first instalment of *The Times Good University Guide*, show that some former polytechnics have been badly affected, however. Thames Valley University, which had a rescue plan agreed by the Higher Education Funding Council for England last Friday, had seen a 19 per cent drop in applications.

However, De Montfort, another former polytechnic, recorded the biggest increase, with almost 20 per cent more applicants. It was followed by two other new universities: Abertay and Lincolnshire and Humberside.

A separate survey showed that most students were overcoming the financial impact of tuition fees. No university reported a rise in dropout rates and Barclays Bank said the number of students in debt on graduation had risen by only 4 per cent in four years.

Tuition fees for full-time undergraduates will rise by £25 for 1999-2000, in line with inflation. But many vice-chancellors are anxious to see a much larger increase after the next election. That would require the assent of both Houses of Parliament.

Few university yet have complete data on this year's dropout rates. But Hilary Layton, public relations officer for York University, said only five students had left for financial reasons: "There is no doubt that financial problems are becoming more serious, but they are not serious enough yet to be influencing dropout rates."

Lesley Munro, academic registrar of the University of Central Lancashire, said early indications suggested that retention may be slightly up on previous years. "It will probably take a couple of years before we know the impact."

Professor Les Ebdon, the deputy Vice-Chancellor at Plymouth University, said: "I think that the impact of the fee and of loans has been to make students think more carefully about applying."

University Guide, page 45

Queen spots Korea opportunities

Alan Hamilton in Seoul reports on an historic visit at a crucial time for British trading links

THE Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh are not the most dedicated of football fans, but they will be unable to avoid the game when they begin a four-day state visit to South Korea today, the first by a British monarch to the South-East Asian tiger economy that is struggling to recover its roar.

Tomorrow the Duke will tour the £105 million stadium being built in Seoul for the 2002 World Cup, which Korea is co-hosting with Japan after long wranglings in Fifa, world football's governing body. Japan has already won the right to the final and the two countries are horse-trading over which of the remaining 64 fixtures each will host.

Seoul has secured the opening ceremony and the first game. The Queen, touring the world's largest all-female university, with 18,000 students, will meet Im Eun Joo, who has become the world's first woman to qualify as an international football referee.

But the visit is more about celebrating 202 years of contact between countries that have remained allies, except for periods of Japanese occupation, since Captain William Broughton sailed his survey ship *HMS Providence* into Pusan harbour in 1797.

Coincidently, the visit begins 39 years to the day since militant Korean students revolted against the government of President Singman Rhee on April 19, 1960. The Queen's presence recognises that Korea has gone well down the democratic road since then. Her host, President Kim Dae Jung, last year became the first opposition leader to be elected to his country's highest office.

First proposed in 1986, when the Korean economy was an insignificant tiddler compared with today, the visit comes at a time when the country is showing some signs of recovery after its dramatic downturn in 1997. Britain is now one of Korea's top ten trading partners, and a relaxation of the country's inward investment rules in the past 18 months has seen major British names move into the country.

BT has gone into partnership with a local telecom company, HSBC is in the process of swallowing a leading Seoul bank and Tesco and Samsung are opening a chain of hypermarkets together.

Stephen Brown, Britain's Ambassador in Seoul, said that the visit had generated huge excitement. "The Koreans see it as a milestone; they remember the 56,000 British troops, and their 800 deaths of the Korean War. And after their recent financial trouble they have looked to Britain as a model of how to rebuild their economy."

While the Duke takes a trip to see the demilitarised zone at Panmunjom, where the ceasefire was agreed in 1963, and to peer into the bleakness of North Korea, the Queen will be on happier business, celebrating her 73rd birthday in a village. She will be invited to sample traditional birthday treats, including rice wine.

> 'After their recent financial trouble, they have looked to Britain as a model of how to rebuild their economy'

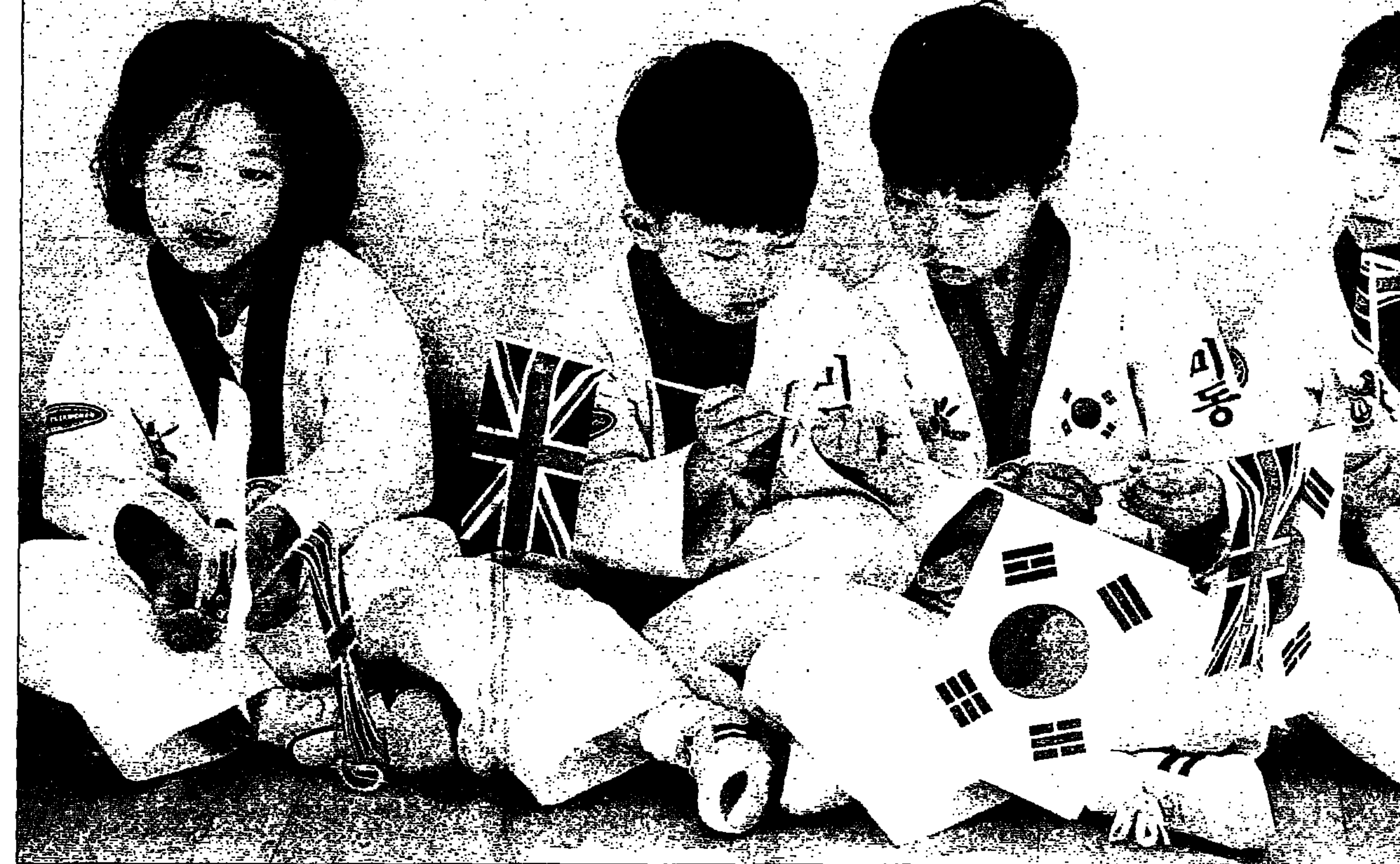
British officials may take the opportunity to question the Koreans on their future investment plans in Britain, particularly the likely fate of the uncompleted Hyundai electronics plant at Dunfermline, mothballed because of the Korean economic crisis two years ago.

More than 6,500 British jobs rely directly on Korean investment, and more than half of Korean investment in the European Union is in Britain. The Government will want to know, with the Korean economy showing signs of recovery, whether projects such as Dunfermline will now be completed. The Queen will be invited to peer under the bonnet of a Daewoo car designed in Worthing and watch young schoolchildren demonstrate the martial art of taekwondo.

She will also meet some of the country's one million unemployed, walk down a traditional shopping street and be taken on a tour of a Buddhist temple by its chief monk.

Both sides are confident that the tour will be a greater success than the last royal visit to the country in 1992, when the Prince and Princess of Wales could no longer hide their mutual antipathy in public, causing their last overseas tour together to be remembered as "the visit of the Glums".

SIMON WALKER



Pupils at Midong elementary school in Seoul rehearse their welcome for the Queen. They are to demonstrate their skills in taekwondo, for which the school is celebrated

King 'paid official' for illegal hunts

By Adam Sage in Paris

A SENIOR French official is to lose his job for allowing King Hassan of Morocco to hold pheasant and stag hunts on his 700-hectare estate on the outskirts of Paris.

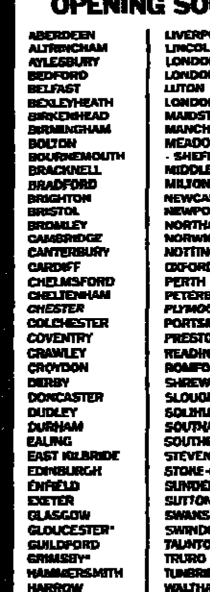
The replacement of Jean-Marie Ballu, director of the National Hunting Office, comes amid allegations that the King paid government environmentalists to invite politicians and diplomats to illegal hunts at his château at Gretz-Armainvilliers.

According to *Le Parisien*, an employee of the office, — a body meant to protect and study game — lives on the King's estate, where he oversees hunts. The newspaper also claimed that the salary of a second employee was funded by the Moroccan Royal Family in return for favours. Not only did the office turn a blind eye to the hunting, but it also helped to organise them, *Le Parisien* said.

A contract between the office and the King in 1988 stipulated that hunts could be held at the estate only to control the number of animals, which would then be used for research. There have been many hunts, but no scientific reports.







Move to Berlin marks a shift in country's view of itself

INSIDE GERMANY



BY ROGER BOYES

THE German parliament meets for the first time today in the new Reichstag, decked out with a glass dome that shines out of the Berlin gloom like a lighthouse in the fog.

Everyone seems pleased with the architect, Sir Norman Foster, though there are still a few grumbles about brightly coloured wooden panels and the narrow widths of the seats for the parliamentarians.

There were political and aesthetic battles along the way. The shape of the German eagle was changed several times until it ended up as a vaguely familiar overfed hen. Sir Norman wanted grey seats and had to settle for a lighter shade of Prussian blue; indeed one could see the whole project as Prussia Light, a safe low-calorie revival of a building not only heavy with history, but also positively obese.

The Reichstag witnessed some of the most tense confrontations in modern German history: it was set ablaze in 1933, providing the Nazis with an excuse to implement emergency powers; in the dying days of the Second World War, Soviet soldiers regarded it as one of the great prizes of Berlin.

Graffiti scrawled by Russian soldiers was found during the restoration work and Sir Norman has shrewdly kept the Cyrillic etching as part of the interior design. But German politicians have been keen to drop the name Reichstag, which means the imperial parliament.

Today's parliamentary session will be brief and Bonn — apart from setpiece events such as the election of the President next month — will remain the political cockpit of Germany until the summer. But crates of ministerial archives are being loaded onto trains and trucks for the trip to Berlin and the machinery of government will slowly shift into metropolitan gear. Civil servants are being offered packages of £30,000 to make the reluctant move eastwards.

The Reichstag is not the only tainted building in Berlin: Goering's air ministry will house the Finance Ministry, and the old Reichsbank, where some Nazi gold was stored, will become the Foreign Ministry. The Chancellor, Gerhard Schröder, will preside over a "Berlin Republic" and so he is condemned to talk of history and of the future, in a different way from Helmut Kohl.

Even if Herr Kohl had won the election, he would have had to change his rhetoric: it is impossible to rule from the old Prussian capital as if one is still squatting on the banks of the Rhine. Poland is an hour down the road, and the place brims with Russian shoppers at weekends. It is the most cosmopolitan of German cities.

German analysts tell me, rightly, that Berlin is a deeply provincial capital and one should not expect any big psychological shifts in German political behaviour. Some power will seep out of the system by moving out of Bonn. The fight for the soul of German conservatism will be contested between the Swabian, Wolfgang Schäuble, the Bavarian, Edmund Stoiber, and the Hamburger, Volker Rühe. Berlin does not figure.

As for the Government, its destiny is increasingly being settled in Brussels; local governments too look to the European Commission rather than to the federal capital. The move to Berlin may thus mark not so much the rebirth of an assertive new Germany but highlight its weaknesses.

Yet shifting eastwards really does matter, not only because it brings Russia closer. East Germans are different and the politicians in Bonn will have to address these differences.

On Kosovo, for example, East Germans — with a memory of Warsaw Pact-led "policing" operations — are far more cautious than West Germans. Seventy per cent of West Germans approve of the participation of the German Army in the Nato operation; only 25 per cent of East Germans agree. This is becoming an important part of the political dynamic. The ex-Communist Party of Democratic Socialism, which speaks for many East Germans and which is fiercely against the Kosovo war, will find it difficult to enter regional coalitions with Social Democrats.

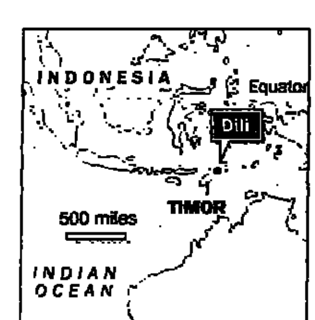
The PDS is showing the way for Green dissidents. On May 13 the Greens hold a special party congress on the war and the signs are that they will revolt against their leader, the Foreign Minister, Joschka Fischer.

If the war continues for another month the German Government will look brittle indeed. Even if it does not collapse, the first lesson of the Berlin Republic will be evident: Germany has become difficult to rule in moments of international crisis.

First vote, page 20

30 die as militia take control of Timor's capital

FROM PATRICIA NUNAN IN JAKARTA AND DAVID WATTS



ARMED pro-Indonesian militiamen were in control of the East Timorese capital of Dili last night after a weekend of terror in which a loyalist leader called for the "cleansing" of all those in favour of independence from Indonesia.

The weekend of brutality left at least 30 people dead, although the army maintained the total was 12. Witnesses said that militiamen were roaming the streets unchecked by security forces.

"The militiamen are controlling most of Dili," an aid worker told *The Times* by mobile telephone as a cordon surrounded the home of Manuel Carascalao, a pro-independence activist whose 18-year-old son and eight others died when his house was attacked and burnt on Saturday.

The majority of the 30 victims suffered gunshot wounds, according to the aid worker, indicating that the attackers had access to army weapons.

"The army moves in behind the militia, chats to them and shortly after that leaves them to do their business. The army is clearly in control of things," the aid worker said.

The violence began on Saturday after two militia groups, "Red and White Iron" and "Thorn" gathered in front of the Governor's residence to hold a rally to publicise their belief that the the majority of East Timorese want the territory to remain part of Indonesia.

Eurico Guetteres, leader of the Thorn militia, told the crowd: "I command all pro-integrationist militia to conduct a cleansing of all those who betrayed integration. Capture and kill if you need."

After the rally the groups began attacking the homes of pro-independence leaders.

David Andrews, the Irish Foreign Minister, was in a meeting with the Indonesian military commander for East Timor, when Mr Carascalao arrived to tell the commander that 150 militia members were attacking his home, in which 150 refugees had taken shelter.

"It was an extraordinarily tense situation," Mr Andrews said. "Clearly the military were aware of everything going on and didn't do anything to intervene."

Shootings continued in areas outside the capital yesterday and the militiamen set about terrorising the media and aid workers into leaving the island. A BBC correspondent was threatened.

Later this week Ali Alatas, the Indonesian Foreign Minister, will meet his Portuguese counterpart in New York to discuss the July ballot of the East Timorese people which is to ascertain whether they desire enhanced autonomy under Indonesian rule or full independence.

SHERWIN CRASTO / AP



Sonia Gandhi, who is talking to the Communists in trying to form a government

Gandhi's party scents power

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

SONIA GANDHI, heir to India's leading political dynasty, yesterday began negotiations on forming a new Government, after the parliamentary defeat by a single vote of Atal Bihari Vajpayee's Hindu nationalist administration.

The Italian-born widow of Rajiv Gandhi was locked in talks on strategy for her Congress party, which must decide whether to try to form a minority Government or to seek coalition partners from more than 40 parties represented in the 545-member Lok Sabha, the lower house. Congress, the second largest party, is still 127 short of a majority.

Amid the political turmoil, and with the Stock Exchange plunging, Mrs Gandhi sent three senior party leaders to discuss with President Narayanan ways of avoiding a financial crisis.

She was holding talks last night with at least six political factions, including the Communists, who said they were working to resolve their difficulties over supporting Congress. The Left Front, with 48 MPs, has been supportive of Congress, but seven deputies belong to two smaller communist groups which are opposed to the Congress party's economic policies.

Turkish poll fails to find a victor

FROM ANDREW FINKEL IN ISTANBUL

EARLY returns from the Turkish general election suggest that no single party will emerge as the overall winner, raising the possibility of political bickering at a time when Turkey faces serious domestic problems and possible involvement in a wider Balkan war. Six people were killed in poll violence.

Only two of the 21 parties on yesterday's ballot paper seemed likely to poll more than 20 per cent of the vote.

Turkey's secularists were hoping that Bulent Ecevit's Democratic Left Party would nose ahead of the pro-Islamic Virtue Party. Neither is likely to come to power on its own and will need at least one coalition partner.

Even if the Islamic party gets more seats, the likelihood is that Mr Ecevit, the 73-year-old Prime Minister, will stay in office.

His main advantage is that other parties will be reluctant to make a deal with the Islamic party. Its leader, Recai Kutan, is regarded with deep suspicion by the military, and the party is threatened with closure for mixing religion with politics.

Six people were shot dead in yesterday in fighting between candidates for election as village elders. Security sources in the mainly Kurdish southeast said that four people were killed and eight injured in clashes between supporters of candidates for the post of elder in the village of Basaran in Sanliurfa province. The Anatolian news agency said that another candidate was shot dead by his rival in the province of Kastamonu, and that a candidate's relative was killed in Fistikozu, Sanliurfa.

WORLD SUMMARY

Militants get death sentences

Haekstep, Egypt: The largest military trial yet in Egypt's crackdown on Islamic militants ended with 20 sentences of death or life with hard labour, and shouts of "God is great" from defendants. The nine sentenced to death were among 107 charged with belonging to the Jihad group which assassinated President Sadat in 1981. Ayman el-Zawahri, the Jihad leader, was tried in absentia and sentenced to death.

Swiss assent

Geneva: Switzerland's voters approved changes to the country's 125-year-old constitution, but the Government's proposal passed less comfortably than was expected, with 59 per cent voting in favour. *(AP)*

Killers sought

Moscow: Chechnya's chief prosecutor issued arrest warrants for four Chechens wanted for the abduction of three Britons and a New Zealander whose decapitated bodies were found in December. *(AFP)*

7 children killed

Brazzaville: Seven primary school pupils were killed and 13 seriously injured in Congo when a grenade they were playing with during a break in classes exploded, hospital sources in the capital said. *(AFP)*

Baby loses fight

Sydney: Gabrielle Woods, a baby delivered by Caesarean section after her eight-month pregnant mother committed suicide with her husband's police service revolver, died after a three-day fight for life. *(Reuters)*

Revenge blaze

Lagos: At least ten people died when criminals set fire to four houses in revenge on a vigilante leader. Lado Dan Banga, who had prevented several robberies, survived the attack in Pembegua, north Nigeria. *(Reuters)*

Saintly record

Rome: The Pope canonised the French founder of the Marist order, an Italian nun and an Italian priest, bringing the number of saints elevated during his 20-year papacy to a record 283. *(AP)*



Watching from the sidelines

As the Nato action in Serbia intensifies, those who were there can only wait for news and despair. Below, **Lucy Hawking** interviews a peace monitor and **Eve-Ann Prentice** speaks to three exiled Kosovans living in London

THE MONITOR

When the order to evacuate came, the monitors moved fast. Less than 24 hours after receiving the order to leave Kosovo, the team of international peace monitors were installed in an *out-of-season holiday* resort in Macedonia. Four days later, the bombing started.

"It's an unpleasant irony that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia made our extraction very easy," says Captain Tom Kenyon, a British member of the verification team, *who has returned to the* UK after spending four months in Kosovo. "In many respects, they were only too happy to see us go — the horrific thing being that as we left via the south, the tanks were rolling in from the north." Originally, the plan had been to evacuate the monitors to Skopje, the Macedonian capital just south of the Kosovo border. In the event, it was decided to take the unarmed force further still away from the threat of attack. Suddenly transplanted from a war zone to a holiday resort, the disbanded force tried to come to terms with the shock of a lightning exodus from the province they had worked so hard to save.

"Within hours we'd *gone from* this very tense environment in a largely impoverished country into a much better country. We were living in a series of hotels on the edge of a lake which had especially good trout. It was bizarre," says Kenyon.

During their stay in Macedonia, the team's only source of information about Kosovo was satellite television. From it, he learnt that some of the ethnic Albanians he had worked with had made it out of Kosovo. "We saw the first load of refugees come through *and with joy we saw some of* our *interpreters* being interviewed," he says.

But the few he knows to have escaped from the warfare in Kosovo constitute a tiny proportion of the people he befriended and worked with during his time there. His last *posting in Kosovo was in the* largely Serbian enclave of Brezovica, *a former ski resort*. Many of the young men were called up to join the conscript army. "I'm fully aware of the effect of accurate air attacks and they'd have been directed at those conscript soldiers."

Kenyon developed good relations with people on all sides in Kosovo. His job as a monitor meant he spent all the daylight hours out in a bright orange armoured Land Rover, covering about 20 villages. "We'd *go into the villages and* meet all the various dignitaries. We'd also talk to the police and the army and try to get everyone's trust."

As an army officer who specialised in reconnaissance, Kenyon had gone to Kosovo because he felt he had specialised skills to offer the mission. "Reconnaissance is getting information, finding out what's behind the next hill — who is there? And what do they intend to do?" *says Kenyon.*

When he arrived in mid-November, the reception from the local people was rapturous. "As we drove through Albanian villages, children and adults were running out and waving. It was reminiscent of the Allies driving through *France in 1944.*" The overwhelming hospitality of the locals made his job very slow. At each house, they would be invited for coffee and burek, a type of honey cake — but only to meet the men of the family. The women, especially the young girls, stayed in a separate room. "Albanian culture keeps men and women apart," says Kenyon. "While the mass rapes we have heard of from Kosovo would be horrific in *any culture, the fact that it has* happened in such a segregated society makes it doubly so."

Listening to stories told by the families was a major part of the monitors' job. "It was important for us to establish what had happened in those areas. Yet in terms of what has gone on lately, it was not that horrendous. In an area of 10,000 people, 17 were killed over that summer. I'm not trying to excuse that but these are *not enormous quantities*, compared to what has happened in the last few weeks."

Officially, the monitors' remit was to verify the ceasefire brokered last summer between the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) and the Yugoslav Government forces. *In practice*, their jobs encompassed a wide range of activities — from helping to locate relatives held in prison, to negotiating with the police *and* KLA to prevent workers in the vineyards from being harassed.

CHRIS HARRIS



Captain Tom Kenyon: "Serbs were happy to see us go"

Getting the electricity turned back on was a regular task. "The infrastructure of the country had been completely neglected," says Kenyon. "The roads are all worn to pieces, the sewage systems and electricity supplies are in a terrible state." In the extreme cold of Kosovo's last winter, the lack of electricity affected the monitors more acutely than it did the locals. "While the Albanians had these fantastic wood-burning *stoves, they* would put us up in these palatial houses where the electricity kept going off." For five days over Christmas, a power cut at the house Kenyon shared with two other monitors meant no heat — in temperatures that dropped to minus 20C — no light and *no running* water. "It really was horribly cold."

The goose that a nearby village had given Kenyon for his Christmas dinner had to be cooked in a clay oven in a restaurant and then eaten cold. "We had oil lamps and a bit of the local spirit, lozar, which fortunately is pretty strong stuff," he says. While the physical conditions were severe for the monitors, who spent around ten hours every day driving their Land Rovers along the ice-bound mountain roads, the atmosphere was rapidly cooling in other ways. "The elation from when we arrived diminished. We never made false promises but we were less and less able to deliver on things."

The Albanians, who received a lot of Western information, remained friendly if more distant than at first. The Serbs, however, tended to get only local Serbian television. "The only education they'd had was this blatant misinformation, so they saw us as training the KLA, and more and more began to dislike us. There were cases of children running out into the road to stone orange vehicles."

As the winter ended, violence *in the villages in* Kenyon's area was growing — bodies by the side of the road became a frequent sight. On one occasion Kenyon had to chase off a pack of dogs to recover a human jawbone from a skull the strays were chewing. "Things had deteriorated in terms of death tolls, of tit-for-tat murders — there had been a few massacres and in some cases legitimate attacks on KLA forces."

By the beginning of March, Kenyon was sure the end for the mission was coming. "Whether we'd all the guns, all the kit, didn't matter, there was not the political will to change the situation."

With the worsening diplomatic position, the presence of the monitors in Kosovo threatened to create a potential hostage situation, making their withdrawal a matter of urgency. "We'd worked out various codings for withdrawing. It was supposed to be like the D-Day landings — *'Broadsword* calling Danny Boy' sort of stuff. In reality, the commanders had a meeting, decided we *weren't achieving our mission*, jumped on their mobile phones and we legged it."

Kenyon will not be returning to Kosovo with his regiment. He is leaving the Army after ten years as an officer with the Household Cavalry. One day, he says, he may return to the area he came to know so well — perhaps to help with the reconstruction of postwar Kosovo. But not yet. "I would *find it very difficult to* go back there now," he says. "I think the Kosovo I knew now does not exist."

PETER TREVENOR

Brothers Nysret and Habib Sariqi and their cousin Musa Sariqi at work in the car wash. They came to Britain from Kosovo in the early 1990s

THE EXILES

THE THREE YOUNG men are typical of thirtysomethings the world over. Their idea of a good time is a beer in the pub, playing basketball and staying up late with friends at the weekend. Their prospects should be good: one is a philosopher, one an economist and one an electrical engineer. Yet their faces are gaunt. Ready smiles never quite reach their eyes which are etched with lines of chronic fatigue.

The three young men are ethnic Albanians from Kosovo. Infighting between Serbs and ethnic Albanians has been at the core of many outbreaks *of violence in the past*, and brothers Nysret and Habib Sariqi, and their cousin Musa Sariqi, came to Britain in the early 1990s after fleeing one of the many surges of violence in the province they know as Kosova.

Their homesickness has been acute, but is nothing compared with *the anxiety they now feel as they sit* up night after night scanning the television in the forlorn hope of glimpsing the faces of those they love among the tidal wave of refugees flooding out of Kosovo.They are typical of thousands of their compatriots living *in this country, all desperate for news* about those they left behind and helpless to do more than live as close to penury as possible. This is so they can send the bulk of the money they earn washing cars and working as waiters to the finely tuned network of Albanian organisations

Nysret, Habib and Musa were doing well *at their university in the Kos*ovan capital, Pristina, until, they say, Serb harassment and beatings forced them to leave separately between September 1992 and December 1993.

Now they are frantic for news about Nysret and Habib's mother Elhame, their sister Mejreme, and her two-and-a-half-year-old daughter Gentiana. The only glimmer of hope has been a phone call from Musa's sister-in-law Elife. The family had been forced to leave Kosovo and Elife was in hospital in the Macedonian capital, Skopje, after giving birth to a baby girl. Musa's brother Nexhmedin, *43, and nephew Safet, 16*, had been seen in the Brazde refugee camp in Macedonia, but she knew no more. Since then, there has been no news.

"We go through different moods," says Habib, 31. "Sometimes you feel like steel, with no feelings any more. Sometimes you feel like crying. You wonder what your family looks like if *they are dead. Every minute it's a dif*ferent feeling." Nysret says he can no longer see a future for his family in Kosovo, even if the refugees are eventually allowed to go home. "I had friends who were Serbs, who never did us any harm," he says, "but now I would kill them if I went back."

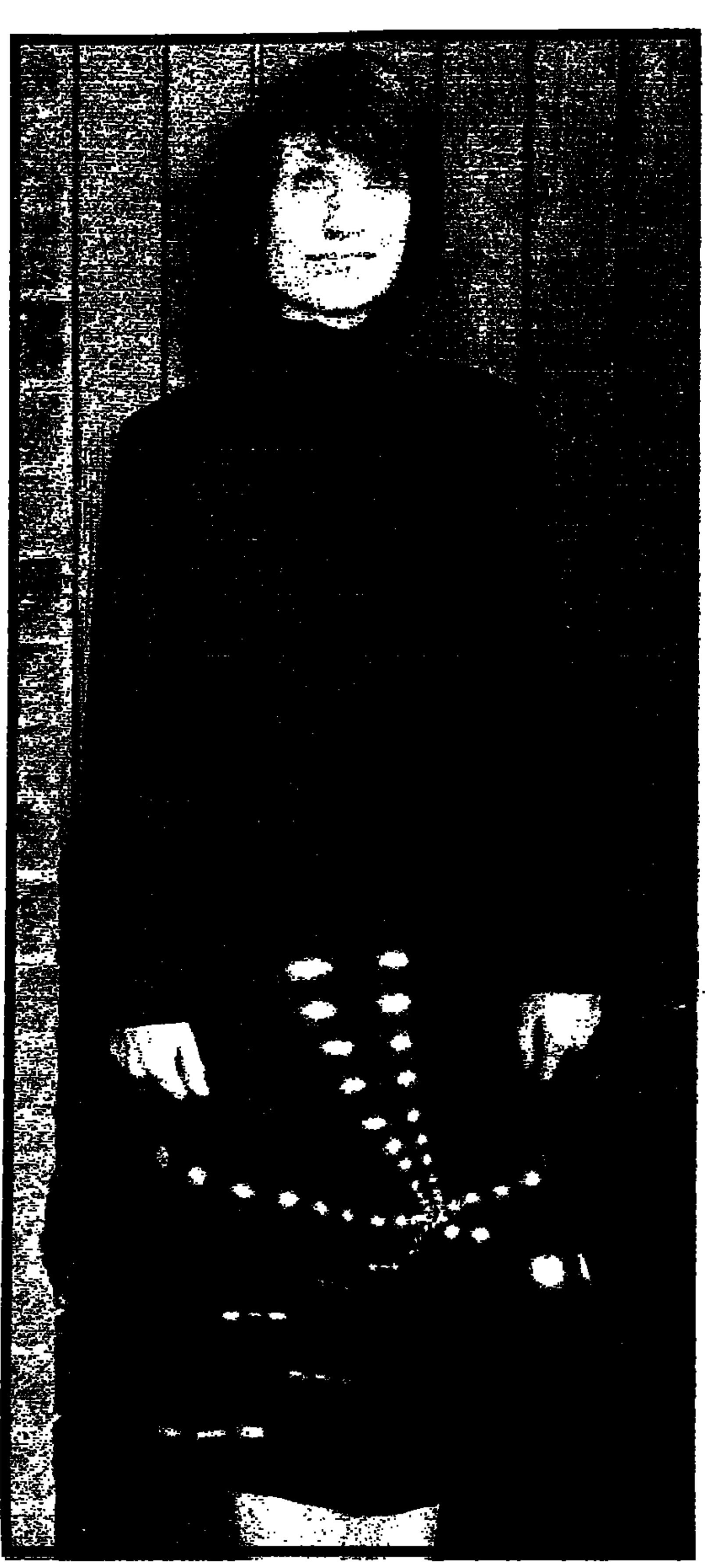
Unlike his cousins, Musa is married. He has an 18-month-old son and his wife Igballe is pregnant with another child. They live in northwest London, just a couple of miles from the car wash business he manages in Mill Hill.

The young men go on to describe the harassment which they say drove them from Kosovo. When the Pristina university at which he was studying *closed in 1991, Musa began work*ing as a taxi driver. An Albanian rights group asked him to deliver leaflets which were discovered during a search at a roadblock. After that constant harassment forced him to leave.

Nysret, meanwhile, was arrested after taking part in student demonstrations. "The Serbs would slap you, hit you *and call your mother names*," says the economist. Habib says: "The police would think that every Albanian had a gun, so you had to produce one when they came to search your home, whether you owned one or not, so they could confiscate it."

Not knowing the whereabouts of their family is driving them all to distraction. Nysret says he can no longer work as a waiter "because I cannot smile any more".

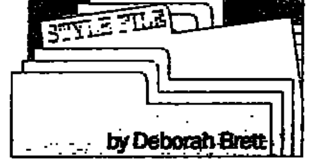
The clothes every woman has







Above: Black cotton zip-up jacket, £275, black silk car headlight print skirt, £325. **Centre:** Beige mac with popper fastenings, £225, stone/black reversible apron dress, £195, red cut-out flip flops, £175 Gina, 189 Sloane Street SW1 (0171-235 2932). **Above right:** Turquoise silk chiffon felted edged shell top, £225, and white cotton drawstring skirt, £90, zebra-stripe stilettos, £135 by Russell & Bromley **Below right:** White linen shirt, £156, and black trousers, £115. All clothes from Red Godfrey, 44 Riding Houuse Street, London W1 and at Liberty's, Wade Smith in Liverpool, Cruise in Glasgow and Cruise Flannels in Nottingham. Photographer: JON MORTIMER, stylist: Deborah Brett, hair: Matthew Cross using LC2 Haircare by Goldwell, make-up: Emmanuelle Guenet at GSM using Origins, model: Hanne at Take 2



by Deborah Brett

KELLY HOPPEN
Interior Designer

Describe your personal style.
I like to create an environment where texture and touch are combined with a feeling of the philosophy of the East.

If you could go back to any era, when would it be?
I love the period of *The Great Gatsby*. I love the clothes and all those parties.

What is your favourite shop and why?
Takashimaya in New York is a very balanced and selective shop where everything is beautiful — you just want to buy it all. Egg in London is similar but on a smaller scale. You know it's going to be an experience going to either shop.



Hoppen: *Great Gatsby* fan

Who is your style icon?
Frank Lloyd Wright. His use of space and light was both exceptional and inspirational.

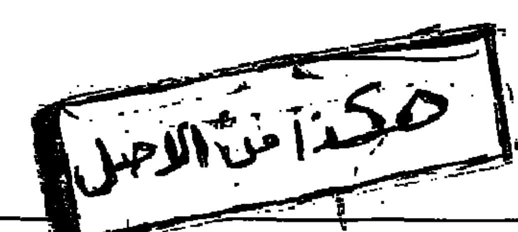
What can you not leave the house without and why?
My perfume. I created it myself. It is quite fruity with a tinge of the East. It smells like part of me.

What is your favourite city?
New York. I get a real buzz as soon as I get off the plane. I love everything about it from the coffee to the people. It is phenomenal.

What three things can instantly change the look of a room?
Lighting is a huge factor, it can change the atmosphere and the feeling of a room completely. Greenery and flowers are a great way to introduce nature to your living area and cushions are always an easy way to update or change the look of anywhere.

What is your style motto?
Balance is the key to life.





been waiting for

Red Godfrey has just launched a range of designs that will become long-term players — beautifully cut, understated, flattering and fashionable clothes that are perfect to wear every day



Once in a while a new line of clothes comes along that makes you wonder how you managed without it. Godfrey was launched in the shops this spring and has already outsold Joseph in Liberty's.

The clothes, almost all in cottons that have been treated with glazes to make them waterproof or add sheen, appear to be simple, in the tradition of APC, but have the kind of thoughtful details that elevate them miles above the rest.

In fashion terms they're basics — except that now most people dress so casually that these clothes could easily solve the problem of everyday dressing. Shirt-jackets and apron-dresses with glazed taffeta finishes are reversible (one side matt, one side slightly shiny, both colours desirable); trousers come without side seams to make them slimming but with adjustable waist fasteners; skirts have drawstring waists, but only at the back, so that the fashion victim in you is catered for, but the front of the waistband remains flatteringly flat and your stomach does, too.

All the pieces in this mainly black, taupe, navy, white and turquoise collection are beautifully cut in that understated way that means they'll become long-term players in the wardrobe.

It was Coco Chanel — the woman responsible for the first capsule wardrobe more than 60 years ago, in black jersey — who said that "beauty comes when fashion succeeds". Red Godfrey, the voluble 31-year-old designer behind Godfrey, puts it another way: "I used to get hung-up on inventing an amazing idea that looked great on the catwalk until I realised that brilliant catwalk ideas don't necessarily make great clothes."

Despite the vaguely radical appearance — bullet-cropped hair that used to be red (hence the sobriquet; she was christened Paula) and little sign of personal vanity (other than an unwillingness to admit that she was born in Uxbridge) — she is, one suspects, profoundly sensible.

It comes as no surprise to discover that two of her favourite designs are Catseyes and the Bic ballpoint pen or that she was good at maths and science at school. She had to coax her father, a computer systems analyst, into allowing her go to fashion school. Even her choice of college was well-considered. "St Martins was daunting but at Ravensbourne they were obviously geared up to getting everyone jobs."

There's a logic behind Godfrey's clothes that means they really do work. She describes them as sportswear: not the active sportswear of the late Nineties, but sportswear in the tradition of US designers such as Claire McCardell, whose greatest legacy to Americans was a design ethos which "was composed of wearable, easy separates.

Godfrey's functional extras — such as the zip adjusters, the Tergal fabrics with chemical memories (they dry quickly and require minimal contact with an iron) and the coats for next winter that will be delivered floor-length but can be altered to customers' specifications — aren't just gimmicks.



RYAN SULLIVAN

Red Godfrey: "Brilliant catwalk ideas don't always make great clothes"

But what makes the clothes desirable as well as practical is Godfrey's fashion eye, honed over the ten years spent working for Katharine Hamnett ("She said I was bossy"), Maria Cornejo, John Richmond, Patrick Cox, Oguri, Jigsaw ...

"It's a remarkably mixed CV, as she says: "One minute working with a designer who would plonk a plate of leaves on your desk and say 'there's your colour palette for next season', the next pumping out high-quality menswear for the high street."

Through it all she learnt to work with sequins, upside-down crucifixes and denim — and still emerged with a voice of her own. "It was good experience, but I wanted to make my own mistakes," she says.

Godfrey has just narrowly avoided one — the temptation to design about 200 products. Perhaps it was the freedom of being able to do what she wanted after years of confining her product-designing aspirations to friends' birthday cards and party invitations. Suddenly she began casting an eye over cutlery, crockery ... "The problem is that once I start thinking about things, I want to change them."

As it is, she couldn't resist designing her own chunky metal clothes rails in her newly-opened shop, complete with concealed groove for the hangers. The shop, in a corner of rag-trade land, behind Oxford Street in London, is a showcase for furniture and lights by up-and-coming designers.

With the collection she forced herself to focus on a few ideas. "Designing for the shop made me realise that it's no good stocking lots of different shapes in lots of different fabrics. You have to get the right piece."

She is happy to keep producing the same cuts season after season if they work. "What I want to do is design clothes that are slick but comfortable and which make life easier. In the early Nineties you could put on a suit to look smart, now it's not so straightforward — but I think that with three pairs of good trousers and a couple of the right skirts you'd have enough for 90 per cent of the time."

Recently a buyer from one of the stores she sells to asked where her millennial party dresses were. She had avoided designing any — rather astutely when you consider how many times women buy a big-event outfit, and how often they buy black trousers.

There is some evening wear, but so far the Godfrey take on decorative detailing is confined to a hand-brushed image of a motorway (those Catseyes had to get a look in somewhere) that was conceived by her husband Edwin and looks striking on a skimpy black dress and top. "If the collection looks a bit minimalist," she says, "it's because that's how simplicity is being interpreted at the moment. In five years the principles of simplicity will still be there, but the look will have moved on."

Although she says she does not have a "fantasy vision" of how people should dress", she is not trying to prescribe a uniform. "There may not be any in the collection yet, but I believe that there's a place for spangles and overtly sexy dressing," she says.

In fact, she wore a sparkly dress two years ago when she married Ed. Conveniently, his last name is Godfrey, too, so she didn't even have to redesign her passport signature. I told you she was sensible.

● *Godfrey's shop is at 44 Riding House Street, London, W1 and sells at Liberty's, Wade Smith in Liverpool, Cruise in Glasgow, and Cruise Flannels in Nottingham.*



Navy striped top, £124, stone cotton reversible wrap skirt, £165, turquoise suede stilettos, £135, by Joseph Azagury (0171-259 6778)

The last refuge of the big spender

EVER since the media outcry about President Clinton's $200 haircut a few years ago, the public's Calvinistic disapproval of costly exercises in personal vanity seems to have diminished to the point of extinction. First there was John Barrett, the celebrity New York-based hairdresser who came to London to ply his £250 haircuts for a limited run last month.

FASHION DIARY By Lisa Armstrong

Not only was he mobbed, but he could, he now says, have charged £500 a head and still they would have flocked. Granted, the money went to help the rehabilitation of addicted prisoners, but even so, no one could have predicted the Englishwoman's new-found propensity for lavishing money on her hair.

Now comes news that Sheryl Crow had decided that only one man in the world is to be entrusted with her newly shorn locks — the man responsible for cutting them in the first place. I can personally vouch for the talents and niceness of Joel Gonçalves. So trustworthy is his face, so reassuring his Scouse-Portuguese patter, that it's all too easy to drop your normal guard in the face of approaching scissors, lose yourself completely in *Hello!* — and emerge an hour later to discover almost all your hair on the floor.

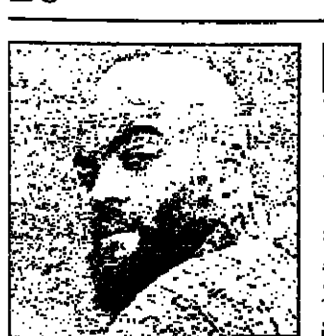
Even so, I'm agog at the largesse of Crow's record company which is now picking up the bill for him to fly to wherever their star might be in the US, as well as making up the shortfall in his earnings while he is absent from the Mayfair branch of John Frieda for two days. He estimates that A&M won't see much change out of £6,000 — and now that she has the kind of haircut that requires trimming at least every six weeks, it's easy to see how the company's profits might take a dip.

Women have long known that in the absence of organised religion, hairdressing salons are the next best thing to a confessional. But perhaps the real point is that in these times when most celebrities tend not to wear too many diamonds or furs a really expensive hairdresser is becoming the last refuge of the big spender.

■ On a more accessible note, the rather elegant Martha Grahamesque look that Donna Karan manages to achieve on her catwalk is — apart from the ravishingly beautiful models she uses — achieved with the double hair bands that scoop back their hair. Previously achievable only with plenty of time and a star hairdresser at your disposal, the look is now relatively available on a high street near you, thanks to Johnnie and Rosie's bra bands, £5.99 from a selection of department stores (Hennes does a version for £1.99). In half a dozen colours, these double, stretchy straps fasten round the head like a bra strap.

Buying them is only the start of the battle, however. There's a knack, inevitably, to using them successfully: place both straps on the hair line, fasten, then gently slide the back strap back along the hair to a position that's comfortable. But once it's mastered, they're a chic solution to short hair, long hair, greasy hair, floppy hair and a good alternative to flowery, sparkly clips.

One proviso — mine was so tight to begin with that it pulled all my features upwards, gave me eyes an oriental slant and left me with quite a headache, until I realised what was happening and removed it. I'm told by aficionados that this will wear off once it has been worn in and, in any case, what's a bit of discomfort compared with a mini-facelift?



THEATRE

Ray Fearon is ready for Othello

FACING PAGE

THE TIMES

ARTS

MUSIC

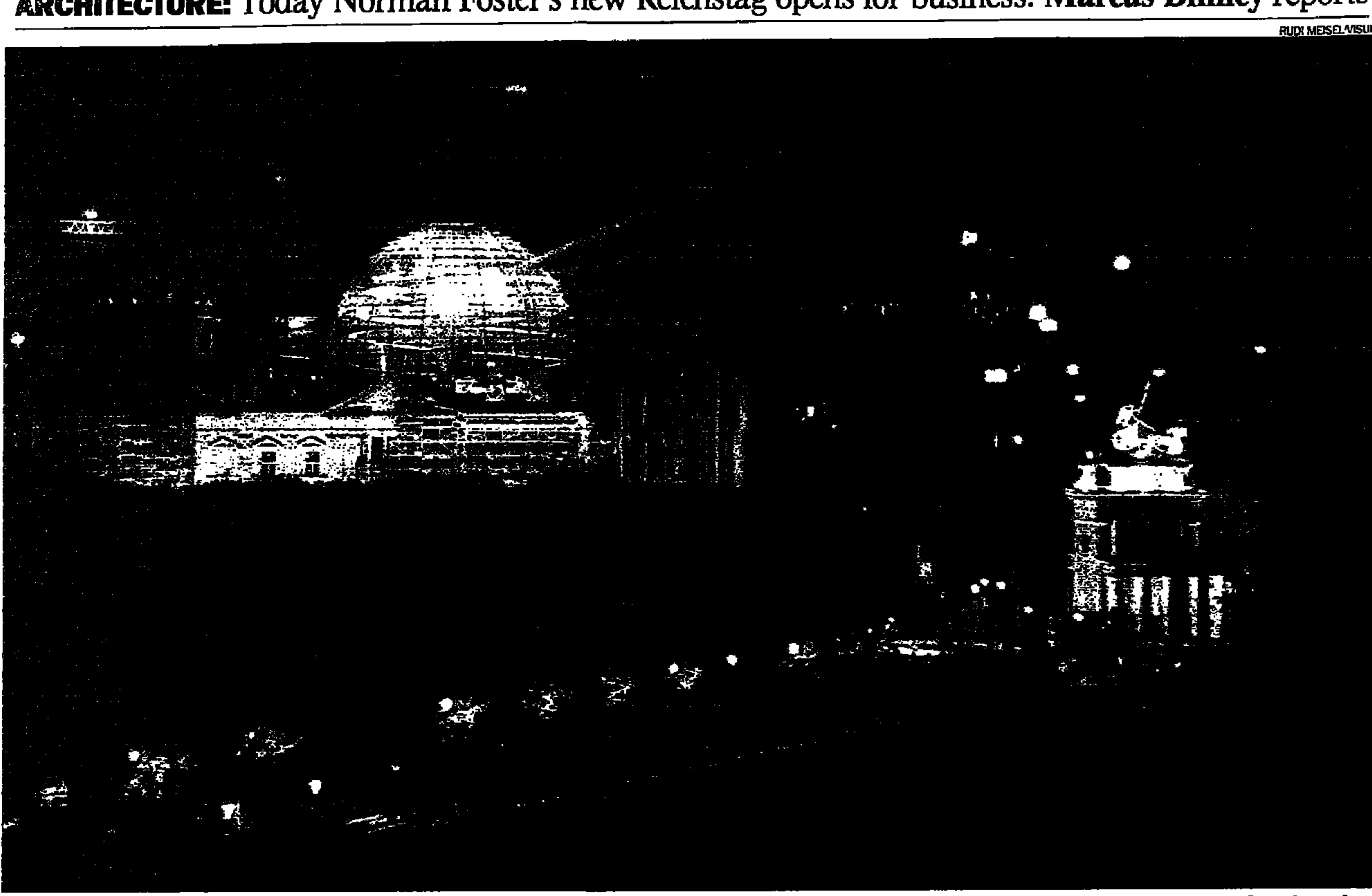
Maurizio Pollini in fine form

FACING PAGE



ARCHITECTURE: Today Norman Foster's new Reichstag opens for business. **Marcus Binney** reports

RUDI MEISEL/VISUM



United they stand: Norman Foster's converted Reichstag directs its xenon light beams towards the Brandenburg Gate. Below, the reconstructed glass dome seen from the roof

Berlin casts the first vote

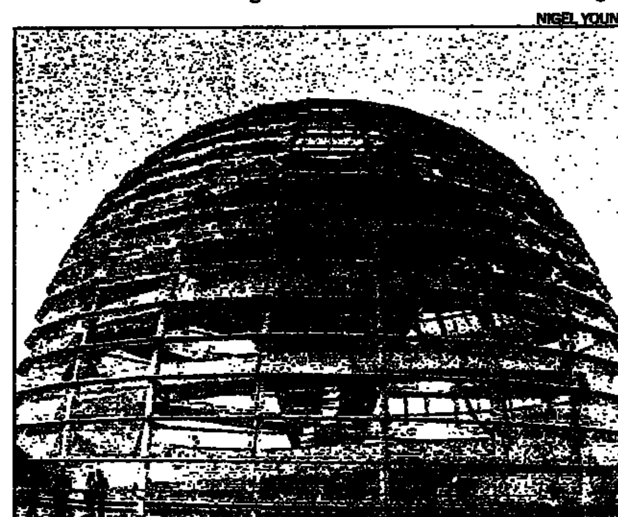
Never before has a parliament been designed to be so open and accessible in its workings as Sir Norman Foster's new Reichstag.

Torched by Hitler in 1933 and bombarded by the Russians in 1945, the Reichstag was reconstructed in the 1960s as government offices. Now Foster has scooped out the shell to restore the original logic of the classical building, its mirror symmetry, its vistas and enfilades, its generous spaces and lofty proportions.

In designing this £200 million new home for Germany's 662 Members of Parliament (MdBs), he and his colleagues have had the rare advantage of being able to refine the ideals of the handsome new parliament building in Bonn by Behnisch, which was nearing completion as they began.

MdBs took their task seriously, coming to London to visit Foster and study Westminster. David Nelson, the partner at Foster's in charge of the project, explains: "They liked the intimacy of the chamber at the Commons and the sense of occasion when it was packed for a big vote." At Bonn, Behnisch had designed a circular chamber — symbol of the democratic ideal, but pushing some members almost behind the main podium. "It made us look again at Greek amphitheatres which were not a complete circle and were used as political forums," Nelson says. The Foster solution is to cut off the back of the circle and to introduce facing seats on a closer, shallower arc. The problem of a sparsely populated chamber is dealt with by providing desktops for only the first six rings of seats. While in theory these seats are pre-assigned, members can move forward to take up empty places towards the front. "The idea is to create a chamber within a chamber," says Nelson. This sense of enclosure is increased by suspending the gallery seats for the public well out into the chamber like the grand circle of a theatre.

NIGEL YOUNG



A special feature of the Bundestag are the very large "faction" rooms or debating chambers, seating 300 or more, where individual political parties thrash out policy in closed session before debates. Party leaders and elected members can emerge from different faction rooms into a huge open press gallery above the debating chamber.

> 'Graffiti scrawled by Russian soldiers is preserved'

Foster's trump card has long been the brilliant way he brings natural light into his buildings. Here he was constrained by the solid masonry walls. Though the debating chamber has windows on two sides into internal courtyards, Foster wanted natural light to flood down from above. He achieves this by an extraordinary form of conical light scoop with 300 mirrors which even on a dull day reflect daylight into every part of the chamber.

Sunlight streaming in from above enlivens the spirit, but with a clear glass dome it was essential to avoid glare. So a special sunshade, powered by photovoltaic cells which collect energy on the roof, can be drawn round the inside of the dome when necessary. The shade is also shaped to allow evening sun or low winter sun into the chamber.

Once Foster had decided on a dome he was determined it should be no empty gesture. The public walk up inside on interweaving spiral ramps — one up and one down — as in the Loire château of Chambord (Leonardo da Vinci is said to have invented this type of double stair for a brothel, so customers arriving would not meet those departing). As the ramp has a gentle incline it is also fully accessible to wheelchair users.

Up to 1,000 people can be ascending and descending this enthralling space — a number governed not by the strength of the spectacular free-floating ramps, but by the availability of lifts and stairs to the roof. Without question this provides one of the world's best skywalks. The Reichstag looks out over a glorious sea of trees extending into the distance. No matter that it is nothing like as high as the Eiffel Tower or the Empire State — Berlin is largely a low-rise city.

The surprise at the very top is to find the central eye of the dome open to the elements, like the Pantheon in Rome, allowing the rain to cascade in (it all disappears neatly into drains and circles under the ramps). The central oculus also has a raised halo, an ingenious device which stops a strong wind blowing air — or snow — into the dome.

"Germany leads the world in its green policies," says Foster. "But as parliament passes the laws it had to provide an inspired lead. All the energy used in the building is renewable. The fuel used is not fossil fuel but oilseed rape. Surplus heat in summer is stored in aquifers 300 metres below ground for use in winter."

I have just two criticisms. First, limiting the decorative palette to just one colour per room (plus the inevitable Foster grey) becomes a bit monotonous. Secondly, on the outside Foster's insistently horizontal metal glazing bars just do not fit happily into classically proportioned windows.

That apart, this rates as an inspired rebirth of one of the most traumatised political institutions of our times. Layers of memory are preserved (including graffiti scrawled by Russian soldiers), but everywhere the openness, freedom of movement and lack of hierarchy are remarkable.

Tales from the heart

THEATRE

Hushabye Mountain
Hampstead

From *Beautiful Thing* through *Babies* to his iffy new *Hushabye Mountain*, there has been something defiantly good-natured about Jonathan Harvey's work. He writes healing plays about the gay life and about the relationship between homo and hetero. He seems to want to build bridges across the British class divide, too. The trouble is that the ointment with which he heals has sometimes been adulterated with sugar. So has the concrete with which he and his bridges link the worlds of nob, snob, slob and yob.

Sentimentality spoils *Hushabye Mountain*, but does not ruin it. I liked Paul Miller's production for the English Touring Company in NW3 in the spring more than when I caught it in wintry Crewe. The design still looks like a half-built greenhouse forlornly in search of a tomato plant or two, but the cast has sharpened. Its finest scene — gay and straight couples furiously exposing their own sexual inadequacies at what's meant to be a nice dinner — might have been jointly written by Albee and Ayckbourn. It shows that, when he wants, Harvey can crack the dramatic whip.

Too often, though, the whip is made of chintz. Even those with a taste for camp will be embarrassed by the opening scene, which occurs in a spoof heaven where a Julie Andrews clone proffers fairy dust, angels dish out fluffy wings, and a parody Judy Garland circles in a boat beneath cotton-wool clouds. Instantly you wonder if Harvey can have anything serious to say about the latest arrival: Andrew Lincoln's Danny, who has succumbed to Aids, leaving his partner, Stuart Laing's Connor, too bereft to cope with another lover and Aids-sufferer, Nick Bagnall's Ben.

Actually, Harvey does have serious matters for us to ponder: the bonds that link the dying or dead and the guiltily alive; the emotional implications of the fact that Aids is no longer quite the killer-disease it once was. Moreover, his quick switches of time now seem less confusing and more functional. Suddenly to replace Ben with Danny at a table, or vice versa, is to say something about the power of past grief and remorse over present hope.

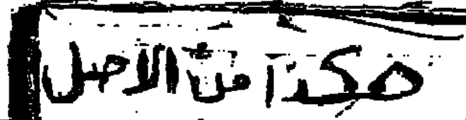
Nevertheless, you keep asking yourself questions. Why does everyone idealise Danny so? Why has he rejected his poor, mad mother, Elizabeth Estensen's Beryl, and why is she intermittently transformed into Judy Garland? And though

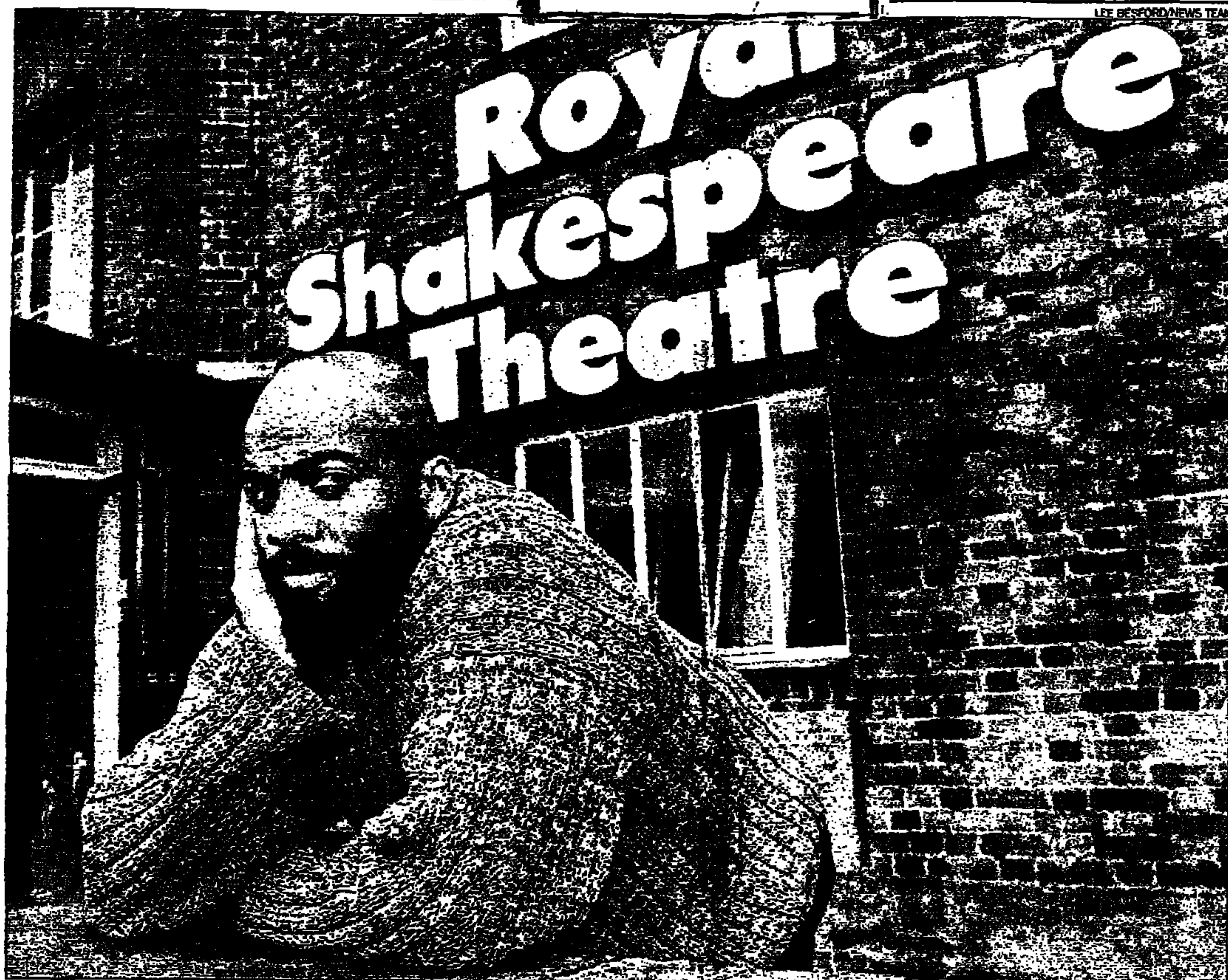


Destination Heaven: Andrew Lincoln (Danny)

David Kennedy and (especially) Rose Keegan give wonderfully funny performances as a Cockney bike-courier and his eagerly twittering middle-class girl, are they always credible? It says much for Harvey's warmth that the former is a salt-of-the-earth type who tearfully tells his brother Connor he's ace and his brother's dying lover he's as good as a win on the lottery: "You've made him the happiest man on God's earth." I am not so convinced it says a lot for his observation of our sad, divided world.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE





"Othello is a very difficult part," says Ray Fearon, who tackles the role with the RSC this week. "There is a danger of burning your flame too early"

A sign of maturity

THEATRE: He set young hearts aflutter as Romeo. Now Ray Fearon has changed his image for Othello, as **Heather Neill** discovers

Last season Ray Fearon played Romeo for the Royal Shakespeare Company. A passionate, earnest boy, out of his depth in a grown-up world of love and violence, he was convincingly desperate and even noble. Now he is cast as the RSC's Othello, matched again with his Juliet, Zoe Waites, and directed once more by Michael Attenborough. But wait. Isn't he too young for the part? Does he have sufficient authority, the necessary gravitas for Shakespeare's tragic hero?

When Fearon arrives at the RSC's Clapham rehearsal rooms after his regular morning run, he is barely recognisable as the boyish actor who, it is said, set teenage hearts aflutter during the *Romeo and Juliet* tour. He is commonly referred to as "a hunk", but he now cuts a more substantial figure and he is sporting a beard. "We had to do the posters ages ago," he explains, "and Michael asked me to have some idea how I intended to look, so I shaved my head and grew a beard." The result is an impression of maturity.

There is certainly nothing tentative about his manner, either. As we cross Clapham High Street to have lunch at the local tapas bar he says "I will stop the traffic for you", raises his hand and a line of trucks grinds obediently to a halt. Doubts vanish. This is a man who won't have any trouble quelling the rioters in Cyprus and carrying off the order: "Keep up your bright swords."

Age is not, he says, a prerequisite for the part of Othello. "He is a general and a fighting one at that. We have, as it happens, cut the line about the 'vale of years', but it wouldn't make any difference if it were there. He is insecure at that point: he is black and he's aware of the distance between himself and Desdemona, who is very young. But after all, she is, as Iago says, a 'supersubtle Venetian'; she wouldn't fall for an old man. She is one of the strongest characters in the play: she stands up in the Senate before the Duke and goes to war to join Othello."

Fearon is 31 now and when he took on Romeo he said that playing a much younger character was the hardest thing he had had to do. He was already used to princes and generals and had even played Othello at 24, although he would prefer not to talk about that. "It's just that it has no bearing on the way I'm doing it now," he explains.

> 'This is a play about wanting to know the truth'

Fearon is an RSC veteran — this is his fourth season since 1993 — and he has benefited from the system. He has graduated reasonably quickly to leading roles and learnt much from senior members of the company, including how to tackle the verse, having taken masterclasses from John Barton and Adrian Noble. "People are unfair to the RSC; it is doing a hell of a lot for young actors." With insufficient training opportunities in regional theatre, pressure falls on the major companies. Fearon says that he was unusually lucky in that he cut his dramatic teeth in Oxford, Liverpool and Manchester.

The Fearon career curve is scarcely typical, however. The fifth of seven children, he began to get work in television commercials when he was still at school in West London. Opportunities rolled in — he was in Caryl Churchill's *Serious Money*, for instance — but he decided he "didn't know enough" about his profession and went belatedly to drama school in his early twenties. "I deliberately went out of London — to Rose Bruford College in Kent — so that I wouldn't be tempted to take jobs." He paid his way by training to be a tennis coach. He had played in the England junior team and says that life might have been very different if the Greater London Council had not ceased to exist and funding for young players dried up.

Fearon laughs when reminded that he said playing young Romeo was the biggest challenge. "I was wrong. Othello is a very difficult part. There is a danger of burning your flame too early. It hurtles at such a pace, you could run out of steam. You could be tempted to think you're on the right track and, after the jealousy scene, go mad and shout."

He is aware of the need for a sense of balance. "I don't want to overplay the race card, to go overboard. Othello is an outsider, but he does really love Desdemona, has been invited to her father's house, and whatever is said about him, he's the best man for the job and he knows it. As a soldier used to war he is going into unfamiliar territory. He and Iago have fought together, confided in each other, perhaps saved each other's lives. Iago is a married man; it's natural that Othello would take the advice of a more experienced man. Othello is open and honest, but then jealousy becomes an addiction. It is a play about wanting to know the truth. He must have proof, but he never stops loving Desdemona. At the end he is right, though; he never has been accepted."

Fearon is very much aware of the power of the language, noting that Othello lapses into prose when he is out of control and that he "catches" Iago's choice of bestial comparisons when his mind has been poisoned by him. The play is intense, "like a pressure cooker. The language has to do the work; it's not easy, but it's worth the adventure. Othello is like a pendulum, swings one way and then another; after the fit (which I think is a sort of panic attack) he contradicts himself from line to line. He changes his own mind."

As a young actor tackling one of the great roles, Fearon couldn't be happier. "I love Shakespeare. These parts are so huge, so deep, they make you question yourself all the time." Ten years ago the opera singer Willard White played Othello in an RSC production directed by Trevor Nunn for The Other Place in Stratford and the Young Vic in London. But Fearon says proudly: "I am the next black person to Paul Robeson to play the part on the *main* Stratford stage. And to me that is an honour."

● Othello *opens at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre in Stratford (01789-295623) on Wednesday*

Three ways to ask a question

CONCERTS

LSO/Tilson Thomas
Festival Hall

A night of Unanswered Questions. First came Charles Ives's work of that name. Then the questing gestures of Carl Ruggles, and finally Bruckner's Ninth Symphony, his farewell to life, its closing movement unwritten. No two concert-halves could have been more contrasted. Ives and Ruggles passed like brief apparitions, while, under Michael Tilson Thomas, the Bruckner was vast, solid and full of straight lines.

The almost military precision with which he marshalled this reading threw a naked light on the work. His was not the slow, inevitable unfolding of a Haitink. He drew attention to the moments when the music stops, its apparent non-sequiturs, closed doors and cul-de-sacs. This was no sense of a stream of consciousness: rather, rank upon rank of sequences, calling to mind the leaves that Bruckner counted on trees.

With an orchestra of the quality of the London Symphony, this approach can be invigorating: a restrained opening broke into a glorious smile for the song-like outpouring. Such beauty of sound and control of phrasing makes its impact, especially in the context of an impressive range of timbres.

A melodramatic programme note warned that the Scherzo and Trio was "musical madness", but here there was a well-behaved psychopath at work. One couldn't wish for music more packed with premonition. In its terrifying hammer blows and mercurial dances a modern audience hears Shostakovich; in the filigree trio, up pops Prokofiev. Winds were pristine, and brass, though coping with the strains imposed by Wagner tubas, responded splendidly.

From the expansive to the soul of concision. Ives's *Unanswered Question* never ceases to astonish with its deft, disjunct originality. An off-stage string group intone diatonic music (here marred by sharp lower strings), a lone trumpet calls into the emptiness while four winds on stage conduct a hectic dialogue. The listener has the weird sensation of hearing three ages of music simultaneously: one rooted in Western harmony, one a Romantic utterance, the last a fierce questioning of both.

Ruggles's first *Evocation* belonged to the same world, its delicate dissonances hanging like a veil behind which the music explores itself at an unhurried pace. In the energetic arguments one could hear the influence of Schoenberg (Ruggles changed his name from Charles to Carl to sound more German). But there is freshness and modesty behind his airy, angular lines.

HELEN WALLACE

Master pianist in Romantic mood



Even though he is a regular visitor to London, the Italian pianist Maurizio Pollini never fails to fill the Festival Hall. He could probably play anything — indeed, he has one of the widest repertoires in the business — and still draw a big, adoring crowd.

But a turnout smaller than this would have been surprising, given a programme consisting of Schubert and Schumann, two gentle giants of the piano literature. These two composers also represent a logical way forward after Pollini's recent cycle of the complete Beethoven sonatas.

Life after Beethoven has given Pollini renewed energy and focus: some of the concerts in that epic cycle had found him slightly weary, but here he sounded fresh again, at least for most of the evening. There were a few bumpy moments in the heady finale of Schubert's *Sonata in B flat, D960*, and passages in the elusive first movement that may have been a little one-dimensional. But he captured this music's great humanity.

Here, as in his other late piano works, Schubert was pushing the boundaries of the sonata forward. When you consider all the emotional pain he was enduring at the time, the first movement can sound miraculously calm; perhaps Pollini was justified in finding a sense of solemn foreboding here, but real calm was established only with the recapitulation, in which the opening theme reappeared transformed by what had come in between. Pollini made the sad, hesitant music of the second movement the heart of the work.

Schumann's seldom-played Allegro in B minor, Op 8, started life as the opening of a sonata, and here the form is even freer. It is really rhapsodic, a melting pot of strong and passionate ideas. Pollini's interpretation was full of ardour, and each of the themes was fully characterised.

Perhaps the highlight of the evening was Schumann's Fantasie in C, Op 17, given a performance of freedom and tenderness. Parts of the opening movement found Pollini in full flood, just as he was again in the first of his encores, Chopin's Ballade No 1, but he dampened things down in the eerie middle section. The imposing second movement bristled with excitement, and the introverted finale had song-like simplicity. Truly satisfying Schumann like this is the mark of a great pianist.

JOHN ALLISON

This week in THE TIMES



■ OPERA

Rosemary Joshua sings the title role in ENO's new production of *Semele*
OPENS: Tonight
REVIEW: Wednesday



■ DANCE

Performance artist Graeme Miller brings his *Country Dance* to the Place
OPENS: Tomorrow
REVIEW: Thursday



■ THEATRE

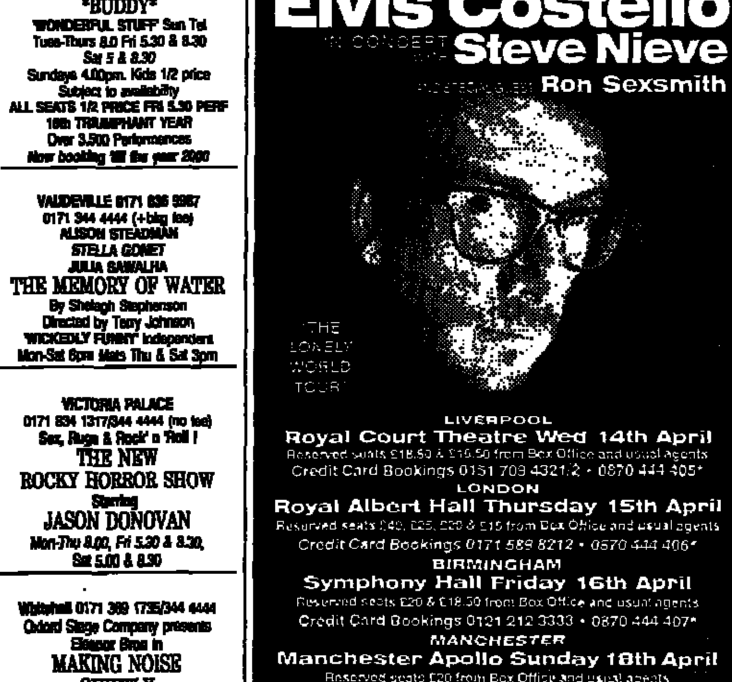
Fings Ain't Wot They Used t'Be, in tribute to Lionel Bart at Hornchurch
OPENS: Tonight
REVIEW: Wednesday



■ FILM

Inside the seedy world of hardcore porn: Nicolas Cage investigates in *8mm*
RELEASED: Friday
REVIEW: Thursday

PLUS: The conductor Daniel Harding leads the LPO at the RFH, tomorrow



The Queen avoids a Scots quagmire

Ancient royal survival skills are on display in Edinburgh

The "modernisation" of the monarchy is about to take an intriguing new twist. The Government's constitutional reform programme has been keenly followed in Buckingham Palace. The proposals — the Human Rights Act, Lords reform, devolution and so on — swirl around the Royal Family without challenging their position. Claims that removing hereditary peers from the Lords is bound to threaten the future of the monarchy are not shared. But a potentially far-reaching, though so far largely ignored, change in the prerogative powers is about to occur in Scotland.

The royal prerogative is a misnomer, since most of the powers — public appointments, ratifying treaties and the like — are made by the *Prime Minister and other* ministers in the name of the Crown. Tony Benn has for long been campaigning (now with the backing of an all-party group) to make these executive prerogatives subject to parliamentary approval. But the Crown retains some personal prerogatives, notably the appointment of a Prime Minister and over the dissolution of Parliament.

In most cases, the role of the monarch is a formality. A general election produces a clear-cut result, or a Prime Minister retires and is replaced by a leader elected by the party. But it has not always been so straightforward. Several times this century, the monarchy has been involved in controversy — including the long constitutional battles of 1909-11, the appointment of Baldwin in 1923, the formation of the National Government in 1931, and the selection of Macmillan in 1957 and Home in 1963.

Peter Riddell

The monarch was in danger of being drawn into highly partisan arguments, rather standing above the party fray. The Tories' decision to elect their leader from 1965 onwards removed the Crown from many such situations, but not all. Four general elections since 1945 have produced no overall majority, or single-figure majorities, resulting in uncertainty about who should be Prime Minister or when a fresh election should be called. There are no public guidelines: only the overriding priority of advisers in Whitehall and Buckingham Palace not to drag the monarchy into partisan controversy. The way out has usually been obvious.

That would all change if Britain shifted from first-past-the-post to proportional representation for the Commons. For most of the time, no party would be able to command a majority on its own. Elsewhere in Europe, lengthy negotiations often occur before coalitions are formed. Under existing British conventions, the monarchy would have to balance conflicting claims.

As Vernon Bogdanor has written in his authoritative *The Monarchy and the Constitution:* "New rules would need to be developed to reflect the new realities of political power and to ensure that the impartiality of the Sovereign was preserved." That is exactly what will arise in Scotland after the elections for the new parliament on May 6, when Labour is likely to fall short of an overall majority.

Most continental countries with monarchies have devised ways of protecting the Sovereign from political involvement — whether through the appointment of informateurs (as in Belgium or The Netherlands) to negotiate with party leaders, or (as in Sweden) to withdraw entirely from government formation. In Britain, David Butler and Peter Hennessy have suggested the publication of principles and more open consultation, though Professor Bogdanor believes that no such device could deal with unpredictable crises or conflicts of principle. Hence, the Sovereign should remain as the impartial umpire, free of party ties. I am sceptical about *whether the monarchy can* safeguard its essential role as a detached head of state while also a political umpire. The mystery, and some of the romance, have already gone and could not withstand the 24-hour media pressures of a constitutional crisis.

This dilemma is resolved neatly, but radically, under Clause 46 of the Scotland Act: "The Parliament shall nominate one of its members for appointment as First Minister." Election would be by a series of roll-call votes, in which names would be eliminated until one candidate had the support of a simple majority. The successful candidate would be recommended by the presiding officer (or Speaker) to the Queen for appointment. So the formalities of the prerogative would be preserved. The *appointment* of ministers by the First Minister will also have to be agreed by the parliament before formal approval by the Queen. Yet, curiously, the issue surfaced only briefly in the Commons, and hardly at all in the Lords, during the lengthy consideration of the Devolution Bill last year.

This is an important constitutional innovation — very different, for example, from the old Stormont, where the Governor was involved in picking the Prime Minister of Northern Ireland. Of course, many questions remain: what happens if a coalition falls apart midway through the fixed four-year term of the parliament and there is a stalemate about electing a successor? And, as Tam Dalyell pointed out with typical sensitivity to constitutional niceties, what happens if there is conflicting advice to the Queen from the First Minister in Edinburgh and the Prime Minister in London?

Devolution is strewn with potential traps and contradictions but the Government and Buckingham Palace have shrewdly avoided one of the most dangerous. In the process, they have created a precedent both if Westminster adopts proportional representation and when Britain moves to a more formal written constitution. The monarchy is again showing itself skilful at adapting to survive.

peter.riddell@the-times.co.uk



Keep out and stay out

A ground invasion of Kosovo would be a disaster for a divided Nato

I do not believe that Nato ought to engage in a ground war in Kosovo, and think it unlikely that it will do so. The military difficulties would be immense, the additional suffering would be terrible, the objectives would be hard to define, the outcome would be uncertain, Nato casualties might be heavy, as were American casualties in Vietnam, Russian in Afghanistan and German in Yugoslavia during the Second World War. These are reasons for thinking it would be a mistake to send in ground troops, but they are not the main reason for thinking it will not actually happen. A Balkan war would require more unity than Nato could give it.

This is not just an American war, or an Anglo-American war. It is a Nato war. The base of public support for a ground war has to be European. The more closely one examines European opinion, the clearer it becomes that the unity of Nato extends only to the bombing campaign: it could not expect to be maintained if there were a ground invasion of Yugoslavia.

Two of the smaller Nato countries, Greece and Hungary, would find it politically almost impossible to provide Nato with invasion facilities, though Hungary borders on the north Yugoslav plain, and Greece borders on the new Macedonia. Hungary would be inhibited by concern for the large ethnic Hungarian minority in the Vojvodina region of Serbia.

Greece has a longstanding national sympathy for Serbia, and hostility to Macedonia and Albania. The last thing Greece wants is a greater Albania. Greece initially opposed the international recognition of the new Macedonia, and remembers ethnic interventions in its own civil war. Last Thursday a crowd of several thousand threw stones at the American, British and Italian Embassies in Athens. Their slogans included "Americans, murderers of peoples" and "Greece, out of Nato".

Greece and Hungary are important because they are so close to the action, but the large European countries of France, Germany and Italy are obviously more important. *Italy has a Centre-Left Government* dependent on Communist votes.

So far, the Italians have been willing to support the Nato bombing campaign, which has depended heavily on Italian facilities. Yet even this has been politically difficult. Like the Greeks, the Italians want an early negotiated settlement: they do not want a ground war.

We know most about the divided attitudes of the French Government. *Le Monde*, on Saturday, had a surprisingly full report of last Thursday's meeting of ministers. The three Communist ministers condemned Milosevic, but called for a rapid diplomatic solution, in line with the Russian position. The Interior Minister, Jean-Pierre Chevènement, repeated his scepticism about the Nato strategy itself, and called for UN intervention.

Two ministers did, indeed, call for ground action to aide the Kosovans, because they thought the bombing ineffective; other ministers supported the Nato strategy, but also expressed doubts about its effectiveness. Alain Richard, the Minister of Defence, gave further details of the difficulties of the Nato strategy, but assured his colleagues that patience would be rewarded.

William Rees-Mogg

The Prime Minister, Lionel Jospin, then summed up. He considered that the conduct of Milosevic justified France's stand on the side of Nato: he supported a political response through the UN, but added: "A diplomatic solution would be as difficult and complex as the military action." *Le Monde's* own leading article on Saturday was headed *La Risque de la Défaite.*

The German Government has already come close to breaking Nato's apparent unity with its plan for a negotiated peace, to be based on the United Nations, and to be brokered by the Russians. This plan has been developed by Joschka *Fischer, the leader of the Greens* and the German Foreign Minister; it would involve a ceasefire while negotiations were being completed. The Greens, at least in Brussels, believe that the Fischer plan has been deliberately blocked by Britain and the United States.

Undoubtedly the attitudes of these Governments reflect public opinion and the advice of their own defence staff. They are much influ*enced by concerns about Russia; the* German and French Governments are in more or less continuous conversations with the Russian Government. Last week the Russian Minister of Defence, Igor Sergeyev, accused Nato of preparing an imminent ground war against Yugoslavia. One of the unexpected revelations of the opening of Russian Cold War documents has been how seriously the old Soviet Union feared an American invasion. Russia is again very sensitive. The main European governments want Russia as a diplomatic ally for a negotiated peace, not as an arms supplier to Serbia in the middle of a war.

Tony Blair has repeated ruled out the use of ground troops, as has Al Gore, the Vice-President of the United States. That may have been a tactical mistake, in that it removed one of the pressures on Milosevic. Nevertheless, it may also have been a political necessity. Nato may simply have been unwilling to leave open the option of ground war.

One of the arguments now being advanced in favour of a ground invasion is that Nato must be seen to win; this is most frequently heard in the United States. Yet it would be even more disastrous if Nato were to fall apart. A negotiated settlement, perhaps leading to the partition of Kosovo, would not destroy Nato, which has already survived the compromise over Bosnia in the Dayton accord.

The power of Nato would still be there, available for defence on other threatening occasions. A split between the Nato of the Anglo-Americans and the Nato of Europe would mean that the alliance had broken up, no doubt with much ill-will on both sides. Britain herself could not enter a ground war without deep political misgivings and division, but the Blair Government would not fall. The coalitions in power in France, Germany and Italy would all be likely to break up on this issue, if the invasion happened.

In yesterday's *Sunday Times*, Bill Clinton seemed to reformulate the Nato objectives as seen from Washington. He asserted that: "The *realisation of this vision will require* a democratic transition in Serbia itself, for the region cannot be secure with a belligerent tyrant in its midst." This is not the existing Nato war aim, nor could it conceivably be attained without a successful and massive invasion of the whole of Yugoslavia, the forcible removal of Milosevic and the imposition of a new Constitution. The Nato bombing has already guaranteed that Milosevic would win any ordinary democratic election.

President Clinton's new aims not only go well beyond anything that the United Nations has approved, but beyond anything Nato has approved, or would approve. If the elimination of Milosevic were made the condition for ending the war, Yugoslavia would be faced with a demand for unconditional surrender. All the European and Russian efforts to reach a negotiated settlement for the withdrawal of Serbian troops and the return of the refugees would be in vain; Nato has to negotiate with Milosevic or it will have nobody to negotiate with. The American President should not take the rest of Nato for granted.

At present, British and American opinion, shocked by the plight of the refugees, dismayed by the political ineffectiveness of the bombing, seems to be moving in favour of invasion. This movement of opinion is not shared on the Continent. I doubt if it could be relied on even here or in the United States if the troops did actually go in. The Americans are very sensitive to American casualties, and they remember Vietnam. The British have been horrified by the television pictures of human suffering, but television is a short-term, high-impact, medium in which new images constantly obliterate the old ones. At present the emotional case for a Balkan war seems very powerful, but, as Robert Walpole said of war with Spain in 1739: "They now ring the bells, but they will soon wring their hands."

comment@the-times.co.uk

THE TIMES DIARY

Pound foolish

TWO new members of the lottery aristocracy have been spurned by Coutts. Laura and Lucy Gibney, respectively a barmaid and factory worker from Grimsby, naturally turned to the Queen's bankers after they received £1 million apiece last July from the £7.5 million win of Roy, their father.

But Coutts treated the teenagers with such snootiness, I hear, that they took their business elsewhere. "The girls were treated extremely badly," I am told. "Some horrible toff talked to them as if they were idiots. So the girls went to another high street bank instead."

AS AN eclectic mix of protesters led by Tony Benn and Arthur Scargill gathered tardily in Hyde Park over the weekend for an anti-Nato demonstration, one straight-faced steward said to another: "I blame those wretched anarchists for the late start. They never do what they are told."

■ SOPHIE RHYS-JONES (below left) has been pad-hunting in Mandelsonland. The future Mrs Windsor is considering buying a base in London to complement Bagshot Park, her marital mansion in Surrey, and has been inspecting properties in Artesian Road.

The W2 address would mean that the royal couple would have Henry Dent Brocklehurst and Lili Maltese, his wife (right), living in the same street. But, more pertinently, Artesian Road meets Northumberland Place, where Geoffrey Robinson helped Peter Mandelson to buy the exquisite terraced house which cost him his job.



Should the Windsors buy a pad in that neck of the woods, they will have also made a very good investment indeed. The neighbourhood is expected to become even more sought-after once *Notting Hill*, the movie with Hugh Grant and Julia Roberts filmed in the *quartier*, is released.

WILLIAM HAGUE was handed a blue starflower by the local branch of the Cancer Research Campaign in his Richmond powerbase during the weekend. The flower, the charity's new logo, is used in homoeopathic circles as a cure for melancholy.

■ BAD news for Beryl Bainbridge makes me wonder why Patricia Hewitt risked political embarrassment by allegedly arranging for her son to jump the queue for a North London school.

Charlie, Bainbridge's grandson, has been a pupil at William Ellis, Hewitt Jr's new alma mater, but has just been turned down by Oxford. He was hoping to have read English and history, but will now be studying at Warwick University instead.



LORD BRAGG needs some stamina to remain a Renaissance man. On Wednesday evening he watched Arsenal, his team, play Man U and then dissected the game with friends until midnight. But at 9 o'clock the next morning, Bragg popped up on Radio 4 for half an hour discussing Darwinian evolution with two of the world's experts on the subject.

■ TONY BLAIR'S campaign to dilute the preponderance of white, middle-aged, heterosexual men in public life has spread to the frontiers. The PM has been noticing that the Foreign Office's "greeters and meeters" — retired sorts who welcome foreign dignitaries off their aeroplanes at Heathrow — give the impression that Britain is run by a bunch of old duffers. To liven up HMG's handshakers, Blair has seen that Shahwar Sadeque, a British-Muslim and former BBC governor, has joined their ranks.

EDWARD WELSH

It's spring, Boris Yeltsin is back in his shell and all's right with the world. Suddenly, Russia is seeming like a friendly old bear again

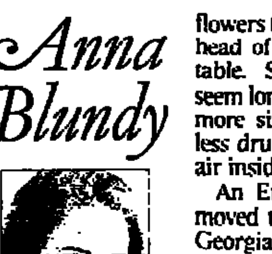
It is finally spring in Russia. Not the grey slush, freezing rain and bleak skies kind of spring that seems to bring such joy to Russians and such bafflement to foreigners ("Ooooh, spring!" they say excitedly when the black snow at the side of the roads starts to slosh on to the pavement), but real spring, with birdies singing and buds on the trees and the President back on his throne.

At the end of winter the mood of your Russian lightens and he pulls all the insulation out of the gaps in the windows and starts doing what he does best, which is enjoy himself. Boris Yeltsin is a prime example of this. The moment the clocks went forward and the icicles began to drop off everyone's balconies (many serious injuries) he bounced back from the dead, slung around some heavy-handed hints and threats, stopped the communists and nationalists (who thought they were on to a good thing under Prime Minister Primakov) in their tracks, and set about having a really good time.

The relish with which he swilled back a glass of champagne with that icon to vulgarity Alla Pugacheva the other day in the Kremlin while her ludicrous boy husband looked sheepishly on (Fillip Kirkorov recently flooded the airwaves with his hit *Oi Mama, chica dam*) was a clear sign to everyone that spring was in the air. Never mind all the wintry reports that the President had been having trouble walking, he practically ran into the room to sweep the unsuspecting pop star off her feet.

Suddenly everyone is making an occasion of everything. All the birthday parties held over the winter were slightly hysterical affairs at which the object was to stave off the chill by drinking as much as possible as quickly as possible. This desperation is typified by the song *Vstavai Nalivai*, which involves a short verse asking who around the table was born in January, February, March and so on and then another verse forcing them to stand up and empty their glass to the cheers of everyone else. If it is your birthday, the person with the guitar/accordion returns to your month over and over until you can no longer either stand or pour, as the song demands.

Anna Blundy



Now, though, the need to lighten the atmosphere with drink has diminished slightly and people are loafing around the city's restaurants and cafés in a more relaxed manner, bringing huge bouquets of spring flowers to stand at the head of the birthday table. Spring toasts seem longer and even more sincere, smiles less drunken and the air inside less fetid.

An English visitor moved the table at a Georgian restaurant last week to joyous tears with his largely ironic (and admittedly shoddily translated) toast dedicated to the Russian writers he had known and loved and his pleasure at walking in their very footsteps. This inspired the Russian guests to leap up and start reciting Pushkin, much to the cynical Englishman's confusion.

But as they said their poems the Georgian musicians played sad mountain songs and couples got up from their tables to dance. Russians will take any opportunity not to think about the economic crisis, the war in Kosovo, the President's possible impeachment, or anything remotely pertaining to the dismal, and a few rays of sunshine through the gloom are enough to set them off dancing, drinking and singing until next winter.

Indeed, every winter a kind of depressive pessimism sneaks into people's souls, foreigners not excepted, and newspaper reports talk of revolution, civil war and the end of Russia as we know it. Doom-monger politicians insist that the only reason the populace is not demonstrating on the streets is because it is cold, and that the moment the sun comes out the Government will really have something to answer for. The communists and nationalists, who as we know love nothing better than a bit of popularity-boosting adversity, are beside themselves with wintry glee predicting Yeltsin's impeachment, an upsurge of support for Serbia and general apocalypse. While the snow keeps falling and the grey horizon is punctuated only by a few blackened trees, it is hard not to believe them.

But now Yeltsin is back in his shell and all's right with the world. Suddenly, under Boris Nikolayevich's command, Russia is already seeming like a friendly old bear again, the Red-Browns are beginning to look a bit foolish (their forte) and the World Bank and the IMF are putting their hands back in their pockets to help out. Most people are far too busy renovating their dachas for the summer to start messing around demonstrating and Yeltsin is far too busy effecting yet another spectacular political comeback to let them.

comment@the-times.co.uk

ON TWO FRONTS

The politics of the Kosovo campaign must be got right

Today's debate on Kosovo in the House of Commons will expose Robin Cook and George Robertson to tougher cross-examination than they have had so far. Yesterday MPs heard Tony Blair repeat that "the important thing is to see the strategy we have through". By that he means the air war: but the more mass graves Nato identifies, the faster the Serbs empty Kosovo, the more civilians get hurt and the greater the damage to civil infrastructure, the harder it will be to present bombing as the sole means to the necessary end.

The Prime Minister and the Defence Secretary have edged towards acknowledging that: in the past few days, both have gone on record that "we keep every single option under review". The Foreign Secretary, by contrast, has been at pains to dampen any expectations that a land campaign is seriously in prospect. Only yesterday, he insisted that Nato would need two to three months to build up the forces required and added that the Alliance was not prepared for the heavy casualties that an opposed land offensive would entail. The Government must speak with one voice today — and the voice should be that of Mr Blair and his Defence Secretary.

Firmness and clarity of purpose are vital, because Nato is in for a longer, tougher and more ferocious war than most MPs expected four weeks ago. The campaign has to be fought on two fronts, political as well as military. The abominable forced exodus from Kosovo rallied support for Nato throughout Europe and America; but in the past few days, Nato's continued and inexcusable failure to disclose the full truth about the bombed Kosovo convoy has rendered the political front less steady.

The incident has further dented public confidence, never strong, in the efficacy of relying solely on air power to force Slobodan Milosevic to halt the atrocities and pull his forces out. In Britain, opinion is shifting towards the inevitability of committing troops. Ministers must be prepared publicly to address the critical question, which is whether the Alliance's so far remarkable degree of unity would crack under a change of strategy. They would be well advised not to evade it in today's debate, for this Friday in Washington, Nato's long-planned 50th anniversary summit will force the least nuance of disagreement into the open.

There is no point in pretending that none exists, within as well as between Nato governments. In Germany, the readiness of Joschka Fischer, the Foreign Minister, to override pacifist sentiment in his own Green Party has been a small political miracle; but he embarrassed EU leaders last week with a plan, which they hurriedly stifled, that included a 24-hour "negotiating pause" to the bombing. In Greece, an indispensable logistical base for any ground offensive, the Government faces a surge of anti-Americanism. In France, President Chirac and Lionel Jospin have rallied to Nato with bipartisan determination, but lower down, the political front looks less solid. There is grumbling in Spain, where support for Nato has always been tepid. Italy's Prime Minister, Massimo D'Alema, has to deal not only with the threatened defection of hardline Communists from his coalition, but with opportunistic manoeuvring by centrists, including his Foreign Minister, Lamberto Dini.

None of this means, however, that Nato cannot hold the line, for a ground war if necessary. Western public understanding of what is at stake is clearer than it ever was over Bosnia. Signor D'Alema's popularity has risen in direct proportion to his firmness in supporting Nato; so has that of M Chirac and M Jospin. But at this critical juncture, decisive leadership is essential. If politicians falter, so too will their deeply moved but legitimately anxious voters.

NO ROOM FOR COMPROMISE

Why Britain must say a flat 'no' to an EU withholding tax

British officials left the weekend's informal meeting in Dresden of European Union finance ministers (Ecofin) saying, with relief, that it had been "the most boring Ecofin" in memory. That is just the impression that Hans Eichel, who this month succeeded Oskar Lafontaine as German Finance Minister, was out to make. But it is deceptive. Bonn and Paris have modified their tactics since Herr Lafontaine's abrupt resignation: but the strategy of EU fiscal harmonisation is unchanged, as is the French ambition to make the euro-11 finance ministers the core of what the French Finance Minister, Dominique Strauss-Kahn, insists will be a "European economic government".

The benchmark by which these intentions must be judged is the EU's pernicious draft directive on the taxation of investment income. Nothing was decided at Dresden. But Gordon Brown is no closer to securing the only acceptable decision, which is to abandon it. The idea is deceptively simple — the deduction of a uniform minimum withholding tax of 20 per cent from interest payments on invested savings held by EU citizens anywhere in the Union. In theory, all EU citizens would then pay their "fair" share of taxes, no matter how or where they invested their money. The justification put forward is that tax policies must be harmonised if the single market is to work properly — which, as the differing tax policies of American state governments shows, is not true; and that the directive would combat tax evasion. What, say its advocates, could be wrong with that?

The answers are that the precedent is a bad one and that the directive's consequences, particularly for the City of London but also for EU financial services, would be appalling. Mr Brown seems ready to concede the principle of tax harmonisation, provided that he can obtain an exemption for eurobonds. Such damage limitation is not good enough. He must win both the eurobond battle and the wider war.

The City is pre-eminent in the trillion-pound eurobond market, a prime target of the tax. Its imposition would cost thousands of City jobs, because the business would migrate to non-EU markets, such as Zurich, where bond trading is tax-exempt. The tax would also hurt anyone with shares in pension funds. According to the World Bank, about 70 per cent of investors in eurobonds are institutions such as pension funds. Under the EU plan they would pay withholding tax on every trade made, instead of reinvesting that money.

Capital can desert markets overnight. The City's dominance in euromarkets dates from the 1950s, when America's balance of payments deficit washed up pools of dollars in Europe. "Eurodollars" were deposited with London banks because London was a centre of currency dealing. The market settled here to stay, thanks to excess regulation elsewhere. New York, for example, lost out on eurobonds in 1963, when President Kennedy introduced a tax on foreign bond issues in the domestic dollar market. They have been vital ever since to the City's vigorous expansion.

International investors favour London not only because it has a deep pool of talented financiers, but because regulations and taxes remain benign. Adopting any EU-wide withholding tax would drive much of this business to more tax-friendly centres. British resistance to this directive has already been met by threats to end the individual national veto on tax policy. But neither this directive, nor the dilution of the veto, can be imposed without British assent. Tony Blair will be told that to use Britain's veto would discredit him as a "good European". In the interest not just of the City, but of EU financial markets, he must resist all demands for compromise.

BRIXTON'S BRAVERY

A nail bomb cannot destroy the will to live together

Random, terrifying violence on a busy shopping street is the hallmark of the terrorist and the psychopath. In Ulster, culminating in the atrocity in Omagh, it has become wearily familiar. But on the mainland it is still thankfully rare, despite the growing tendency of extremists to exploit the publicity that horror brings. Brixton is the latest community to suffer. The nail bomb that on Saturday left at least 48 people injured, some seriously, was timed to explode when it would cause the greatest carnage. When the ceasefire in Ulster is holding, however precariously, outrage will be particularly keen.

So far, no group has claimed responsibility. Speculation has focused on a lone attacker, possibly similar to, or even inspired by, the so-called Mardi Gra bomber. There is also the likelihood of a racist motive. Given Brixton's ethnic mix, anyone wishing to stir up racial hatred, or to take perverted revenge on the black community in the wake of the Stephen Lawrence report, might have chosen this South London symbol of black Britain to detonate a parcel bomb of hatred.

What is clear is the courage and quick thinking of all those caught up in the incident. Years of vigilance and familiarity with bomb warnings have taught people to avoid suspicious packages. The man who spotted what looked like a bomb and calmly carried the holdall to a wall where it would do less harm heroically risked his life in an attempt to save others. The police who ran towards the explosion and the passers-by who rushed in to help the injured did what they humanly could, ignoring their own shock and the risk of a second device going off. As the ambulances were on their way, people were already offering first aid and comfort.

Brixton is a resilient place, however. It has had to be. With more than its fair share of troubles in the past 30 years, it has learnt to turn adversity to its advantage. Lacking wealth, jobs and beauty, Brixton has seen race riots and race hatred, police brutality and police victimisation, segregation and prejudice. There have been national inquiries and government resolutions. But since 1981, the district has fought back. Urban regeneration, imaginative integration initiatives, the kindling of ethnic pride amid racial diversity have made Brixton now a symbol more of hope than of deprivation. No wonder Nelson Mandela asked to go there. Its streets hum with life; no deranged terrorist can destroy their vibrant variety.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Opinion polls and monetary union

From Mr David Davis, MP for Haltemprice and Howden (Conservative), and others

Sir, You report (April 12) the conflicting results of opinion polls about business attitudes to economic and monetary union. Yet it will be the people who will decide this crucial issue, not the business community, and public opposition to replacing the pound by the euro is being underestimated.

Peter Riddell has rightly noted (article, March 1) that some recent polls have featured "a slightly altered question". However, the only objective way to assess changes, if any, in public opinion is to ask the identical basic question repeatedly.

On October 2 and 3, 1998, an ICM poll commissioned by Julian Lewis, MP, asked: "Do you think that Britain should replace the pound with the single European currency?" Thirty-two per cent replied "Yes"; 56 per cent replied "No".

However, on February 11 *The Guardian* newspaper claimed that its own ICM poll showed that "support in Britain to join the euro has surged to its highest ever level", with 36 per cent in favour and 52 per cent opposed. This poll made no reference to replacing the pound.

ICM was immediately commissioned to repeat the question, with the October 1998 wording. The fieldwork was carried out between March 5 and 7, before the resignation of the European Commission. This time the results were 30 per cent "Yes" and 60 per cent "No".

This shows that public opinion has, if anything, become more hostile to EMU over the past six months, and that findings to the contrary during this period are likely to have resulted from changes in the wording of poll questions, not in public opinion itself.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID DAVIS,
SYDNEY CHAPMAN,
ERIC FORTH,
MICHAEL SPICER,
House of Commons.
April 14.

From the Chief Executive of Business for Sterling

Sir, Your report, "business moves in favour of euro in new poll" (April 12), featured the results of a survey which not only sampled just 200 firms, but also excluded the 95 per cent of Britain's 3.7 million businesses which have less than £1 million turnover.

The survey we commissioned from ICM, showing that 63 per cent of businesses are opposed to the euro (report, March 31), is the only one to survey all sizes of business, and its sample of 1,000 is the biggest. Your report's assertion that this poll "overemphasised" the views of smaller businesses is simply wrong. The overall results were correctly weighted to mirror the structure of the whole business community. Unweighted, they overrepresented big business by a factor of 50.

The CBI and Britain in Europe are defending an increasingly desperate position. Minutes of the CBI's economic affairs committee meeting in July 1998 reveal that they ruled out "a completely random survey of businesses, which would be the ultimate gauge of firms' attitudes to UK membership of EMU", on the ground that "complication might, however, arise in reconciling the survey results with the existing CBI position if the outcome turned out to be less pro-EMU". They opted instead to encourage a *Financial Times* survey in association with MORI, which again excluded small business from the sample (letters, November 30 and December 3, 1998).

In his Budget speech the Chancellor of the Exchequer said that small businesses were "the very firms whose growth will create the greatest number of new jobs". These businesses are responsible for a growing share of national employment. It is no longer acceptable for pollsters or those who represent business to ignore their views.

Yours faithfully,
NICK HERBERT,
Chief Executive,
Business for Sterling,
18 Buckingham Gate, SW1E 6PE.
April 13.

Splitting hairs

From Dr Patrick Bye

Sir, Nigel Hawkes has done a service to science by reporting (April 13) Dr Erika Hagelberg's important discovery relevant to the origin and dispersal of Homo sapiens.

During my preclinical course at Jesus College, Cambridge, I had the pleasure of tutorials with Professor Duckworth, the founder of the collection from which came the hairs of Andaman islanders studied by Dr Hagelberg.

I am certain that the late Professor Duckworth, who was the medically qualified Professor of Anatomy, would have been delighted that his old (and now probably dusty) specimens could still make a valuable contribution to scientific research.

The objection to Dr Hagelberg's work from the present director of the collection, and his ludicrous appeal to political correctness, seem unworthy.

Yours,
PATRICK BYE,
Keeper's Cottage, Piltdown,
Uckfield, East Sussex TN22 3XT.
April 14.

Tragedy funds 'perpetuate grief'

From Mr Geoffrey Morgan

Sir, I was saddened about the service of remembrance to those who died at Hillsborough (report, April 16). Everyone experiences the loss of a loved one through death. The rituals of mourning enable those left behind to recover from their loss and continue with their lives.

It is more difficult where others share grief in the same circumstances — Hillsborough, Aberfan, Lockerbie, etc. The pursuit of "justice" or "the truth" by the relatives seems to me a means to perpetuate grief and perhaps avoid responsibilities to the living.

At the time of the Aberfan pit tragedy in October 1966 monetary compensation for the loss of a child was fixed at £500. The disaster fund persuaded the Charity Commission to allow us to pay £5,000 per person, regardless of personal circumstance, including age.

What purpose does money serve in these circumstances other than to sow dissension? Usually a small sum can compensate for the material loss in a disaster. The rest of the money, which is the only way the public can express their natural grief and wish to do something to help, can cause more trauma.

At the time of the Bradford football fire disaster in May 1985, I offered my services to the newly appointed trustee and discussed what I perceived as the Aberfan fund's failings. The Bradford fund did not seek charitable status and whatever grants were made to beneficiaries remained confidential.

When it was wound up I complimented the trustee on the speed, skill and compassion with which its work had been completed with an almost total absence of controversy. He was kind enough to observe that he had taken on board the discussion we had had previously and avoided the mistakes made at Aberfan.

Let the dead rest in peace.

Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY MORGAN
(Secretary/Treasurer,
Aberfan Disaster Fund, 1969-71),
Rose Cottage,
Ludwells Lane, Waltham Chase,
Southampton SO32 2NP.
geof@cgmorgan.freeserve.co.uk
April 16.

British citizenship

From Mr Robert Purdie

Sir, The British Nationality Act 1981 (letters, April 7 and 12) discriminates against men. A British father can only pass on British citizenship if he is married to the mother of his child. A British mother can always pass on British citizenship to her children (whether full citizenship or citizenship by descent).

The European Convention on Nationality, which has been open for signature since November 6, 1997, attempts to introduce conformity in the internal law of the member states of the Council of Europe on nationality and can be seen as an extension of the right to family life enshrined in the European Convention on Human Rights. Article 5 of the nationality convention prohibits discrimination on various grounds, including sex. As yet, the United Kingdom has not signed nor ratified this convention.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT PURDIE,
28 Western Road, Oxford OX1 4LG.
April 12.

From Mr Paul Reichelt

Sir, Mr Michael Pickett's clarification (letter, April 12) of current nationality laws highlights my family difficulties.

As a UK-based civil servant in the Air Ministry, I served a four-year tour of duty in Singapore in the late 1950s. While overseas, officers and families used some of the facilities provided by and available to the RAF. My twins, born at the British Military Hospital in Singapore in 1957 were registered at the colony's registrar's offices in accordance with my department's instructions.

In their late teens, my son's and daughter's applications for individual temporary British passports, for overseas school trips, were initially refused. The reason: no British birth certificate. Proof of my nationality and an interview with the local passport office finally led to acceptance. Later applications for permanent passports led to similar resistance.

For some, my surname attracts immediate doubts to nationality. I find it hard to believe that all children born overseas to members of the Forces and UK-based civil servants had similar problems when applying for passports. After marriage my daughter's passport applications were unquestioned.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL REICHELT,
7 Belton Grove,
Grantham NG31 9HH.
April 12.

From Mrs Bette Brien

Sir, Jack Straw says there should be public celebrations for people becoming new citizens of the UK (report, April 13). About seven years ago I held a large party at an art gallery in Totnes to celebrate my "naturalisation papers". I was very proud to become a British citizen and the gallery was draped with flags. Live musicians and champagne were part of the festivities.

However, I will not celebrate becoming a citizen of Europe or enjoy giving up sterling. I came to Britain 40 years ago and feel more British than the British. I love it here!

Yours sincerely,
BETTE BRIEN,
7 North Street, Totnes TQG 5NZ.
April 13.

Teachers' pay

From the Minister of State at the Department for Education and Employment

Sir, Mrs Theresa May, MP, the Shadow Schools Minister, claims (letter, April 12) that the Government's plans for teacher pay reform represent a "centrally controlled, bureaucratic, mechanistic approach ... which could take good teachers out of the classroom".

The Government believes that head teachers should play the most important role in our new system — which is about rewarding good teachers and keeping them in the classroom. External assessors will ensure, in its initial stages particularly, that the system is fair and rigorous.

We want bureaucracy kept to a minimum. The heads' unions have been willing to be constructive in offering practical suggestions.

Unfortunately, as your editorial of April 7 indicated, the Conservatives seem to be supporting those unions which are against any link between pay and performance.

Yours faithfully,
ESTELLE MORRIS,
Department for Education
and Employment,
Sanctuary Buildings,
Great Smith Street,
Westminster SW1P 3BT.
April 12.

From Mr Frank Wood

Sir, David Blunkett and the Government show little understanding of teachers and the way the education system works. From 43 years' experience connected with education here and overseas, either as a teacher or an author of textbooks, I confidently predict that in the majority of cases the "merit rises" would not go to the best teachers. They would go to the cronies of the headmaster.

Timetabling would be such as to show these cronies in the best possible light. Those who flattered the head would get priority. Good teachers who did not see eye to eye with authority would get short shrift.

The result — a demoralised workforce and lower standards of teaching.

Yours faithfully,
FRANK WOOD,
58 Andrew Lane,
High Lane, Stockport SSK6 8HX.
April 13.

Smack of authority

From the Chief Executive of Barnardo's

Sir, We were more than a little surprised to be singled out for criticism by The Freedom Association (letter, April 10) for our commitment to the "Children are unbeatable" alliance.

This alliance, which consists of over 200 separate organisations and numerous individual childcare experts, has a stated objective of promoting positive discipline for children rather than advocating that parents be criminalised. A recent MORI poll showed that 73 per cent of people support law reform to protect children against physical assault, where they can be sure parents will not then be prosecuted for trivial smacks.

Our policy, which has been approved by Barnardo's trustees, stems from the need to protect vulnerable children from physical violence and is clearly in line with Barnardo's stated objectives.

Yours sincerely,
ROGER SINGLETON,
Chief Executive, Barnardo's,
Tanners Lane, Barkingside,
Ilford, Essex IG6 1QG.
April 14.

Cavalry in battle

From Mr Peter W. S. Baines

Sir, Philip Howard (article, April 16) is wrong to view the charges of the Light and Heavy Brigades at Balaclava in the same negative light.

In contrast to the infamous fate that befell Cardigan's brigade in "the Valley of Death", the Heavy Brigade suffered few casualties in one of the greatest and most audacious cavalry charges in military history.

Mr Howard's claim that the cavalry "never delivered on the battlefield" is *magnifique, mais ce n'est pas la vérité*.

Yours faithfully,
P. W. S. BAINES
(Officer cadet),
Wechylstone House,
Speldhurst, Kent TN3 0NP.
April 16.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.
e-mail to: *letters@the-times.co.uk*

Change of tune at Glyndebourne

From Mr Alan Blyth

Sir, I am seriously concerned by Nicholas Snowman's plans for Glyndebourne and your editorial support for them (article, "Fasten your cummerbands ...", and leading article, April 14). Works such as *Otello*, *Tristan und Isolde*, *Wozzeck* and Birtwistle's *Mask of Orpheus*, heavy fare by any standard, have been and should continue to be the province of the major companies in London, whose work Glyndebourne will simply be duplicating.

Glyndebourne should continue to present, as its core repertory, its supreme Mozart, rehearsed in a manner not possible at more cash-strapped houses, along with early opera, rare Handel and Rossini and little-known Czech repertory (no shortage of masterpieces to be explored in any of these areas), works not available elsewhere in this country and ideal fare for a summer evening in the Sussex Downs.

Are we really never to see and hear again in the house such joys as Handel's *Theodora* and Rossini's *Le Comte Ory*? I hope not. Having worked in subsidised surroundings for most of his career, Snowman perhaps forgets that Glyndebourne has to provide a fare that will please its public, not give us some "radical-chic" concept out of kilter, in my view, with the intentions of Glyndebourne's founder.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN BLYTH,
22 Shilling Street,
Lavenham, Suffolk CO10 9RH.
April 15.

From Mr Robin Howard

Sir, Nicholas Snowman appears to have excellent plans for the repertory, but will he please give his attention also to the availability of tickets?

When the new opera house was opened it was stated that a greater proportion of seats would be available to the public, as opposed to members. My wife and I, having always immensely enjoyed our visits, were most disappointed this year when, although on the mailing list, we were informed that all tickets for all performances of *The Bartered Bride* had been sold before public booking could commence.

As this was the only production we wished to see, we shall have to forgo our visit to Glyndebourne this year.

Yours faithfully,
ROBIN HOWARD,
New Timbers,
8 Upfield, Croydon CR0 5DP.
April 15.

Trafalgar Square plinth

From Mr L. A. Yeats

Sir, King Charles I lost his head in Whitehall. Anyone wanting to see his statue on its island at the junction of Whitehall and Trafalgar Square at close quarters risks injury of a less permanent but nevertheless damaging nature from the never-ending flow of traffic.

A solution to the problem of the empty plinth on the other side of the square (news in brief, April 10) would be to move King Charles. This would make it easier for people to see one of London's best pieces of statuary, relieve traffic congestion by removing the need for the island and place the King in close proximity to statues of his succeeding relatives — his son James II, George III and George IV — history and genealogy lessons combined.

It would also have the advantage of obviating the need to commission a new statue (a good thing given the dire quality of some recent London statues and monuments), thereby saving money.

Yours,
L. A. YEATS,
1 Oakley Gardens,
Downhead Park,
Milton Keynes MK15 9BH.
April 13.

Top brass

From Mrs P. Pountney

Sir, Today's report of the memorial service for Lord Lewin makes me wonder if we have more Admirals (all classes) than HM ships?

Yours faithfully,
P. POUNTNEY,
112 High Street,
Broughton, Kettering NN14 1NQ.
April 14.

Millennium babies

From Mr Douglas J. Bugler

Sir, The recent talk about planning for a millennium baby (reports, March 23, 27 and April 6) reminds us that without any planning or thought on the subject (other than the usual ones) our son was born on September 9, 1949, as, no doubt, were many others.

This year will see their 50th birthdays on 9.9.1999, which just goes to show how clever you can be when you leave it to nature.

Yours faithfully,
D. J. BUGLER,
5 Winston Court,
Lymington Road,
New Milton, Hampshire BH25 6PG.
April 11.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
April 17: The Princess Royal, Chief Commandant for Women in the Royal Navy, accompanied by Commodore Timothy Laurence, Royal Navy, this morning visited the Royal Naval Reserve Training Centre at HMS Forward, Tilton Road, Birmingham and was met on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the West Midlands (Mr Robert Taylor).

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
April 18: The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh left Heathrow Airport this evening for the State Visit to The Republic of Korea.

Her Majesty and His Royal Highness were received at the airport by the Rt Hon the Lord Camoys (Lord Chamberlain). Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Greater London (The Lord Imbert), Minister Choi Jong-moo (Acting Head of Mission, Korean Embassy), the Lord Marshall (Chairman, British Airways), Sir John Egan (Chief Executive, British Airport Authority), and Mr Roger Cato (Managing Director, Heathrow Airport).

The following are in attendance: the Rt Hon Derek Fatchett, MP (Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs), His Excellency Mr Stephen Brown (Her Majesty's Ambassador to the Republic of Korea) and Mrs Brown, The Countess of Airlie, the Rt Hon Sir Robin Janvrin, Major-General Sir Simon Cooper, Mrs Mary Francis, Miss Penny Russell-Smith, Surgeon Captain David Swain, RN, Air Commodore the Hon Timothy Elworthy, Squadron Leader Simon Brailsford, RAF, Brigadier Miles Hunt-Davis, Mr Frank Baker and Mr Russ Dixon.

Today's royal engagements

The Princess Royal, president, Animal Health Trust, will attend the Lord's Taverners spring luncheon at the London Hilton on Park Lane, at 12.45.

The Duchess of Gloucester opens Claire House Children's Hospice, Bebington, Wirral, at 1.40; visits West Kirby Residential School (for special needs) at 2.15; and as honorary president, Lawn Tennis Association, visits Bidston Moss Tennis Centre, Birkenhead, at 3.30.

For more details about the Royal Family visit the royal website at: www.royal.gov.uk

Birthdays today

The Earl of Annandale and Hartfell, 58; Mr William Baillie, former president, Royal Scottish Academy, 76; the Most Rev Luigi Barbarito, former Apostolic Nuncio, 77; Miss Sue Barker, tennis player and sports commentator, 43; Mr Dickie Bird, cricket umpire, 66; Mr Antonio Carluccio, restaurateur, 62; Mr Algy Cluff, chairman and chief executive, Cluff Mining, 59; Mr Adrian Coles, director-general, Building Societies Association, 45; Mr Glyn England, director, the Wind Fund, 78; Mr Trevor Francis, football manager, 45; Lord Justice Henry, 68; Dr Sir John Horlock, FRS, former Vice-Chancellor, Open University, 71; Mr G.B. Inglis, former senior partner, Slaughter and May, 66; Mr Dudley Moore, actor and composer, 64; Mr Garfield Morgan, actor, 68; Mr Murray Perahia, pianist, 52; Mr Richard Phelps, pentathlete, 38; Lord Justice Roch, 65; M Michel Roux, chef and restaurateur, 58; Mr Wilf Stevenson, director, Smith Institute, 52; Miss Bridget Towle, Chief Guide, Guide Association, 57; the Hon Michael Trend, MP, 47; Miss Ruby Wax, actress and comedian, 46; Mr Philip Wroughton, Lord-Lieutenant of Berkshire, 66.

Service luncheons

Trucial Oman Scouts
The annual luncheon for officers of the Trucial Oman Levies, Trucial Oman Scouts, and the Union Defence Force was held on Friday at the Army and Navy Club.

10th Baluch Regiment
On the occasion of the VC/GC reunion, Officers of the 10th Baluch Regiment entertained at luncheon on Friday, at the Army & Navy Club, Captain Bghandari Ram, their last surviving holder of the Victoria Cross. Major F.A. Rowley presided.

Reception

Baroness Darcy de Knayth
Baroness Darcy de Knayth, President of Skill (National Bureau for Students with Disabilities) was the host at a reception on Friday at the House of Lords to mark the 25th anniversary. Lord Ashley of Stoke, CH, Lord Morris of Manchester and Ms Barbara Waters, chief executive, were the speakers.

Meeting

International Military Music Society
Major Richard Powell was guest speaker at the spring meeting of the UK branch of the International Military Music Society at Eastbourneyesterday. Mr John Ambler, chairman, presided.

Service dinners

South Notts Hussars Yeomanry
Colonel L.D. Clapp presided at the annual dinner of the 150th Regiment South Notts Hussars Yeomanry RHA TA held on Saturday at the Strathdon Hotel, Nottingham.

RAF Oxford & Cambridge Society
Dr Colin Lucas, Vice-Chancellor of Oxford University, and Air Chief Marshal Sir Richard Johns, Chief of the Air Staff, were the guests of honour at the annual dinner of the RAF Oxford and Cambridge Society held on Friday at Magdalen College, Oxford. Air Marshal Sir Timothy Garden presided.

Nature notes

SEDGE warblers are back from Africa and singing their rich, babbling song in reedbeds and willows. They usually skulk out of sight, but sometimes throw themselves up into the air to sing. They can be distinguished from reed warblers, which will also soon be arriving, by their bright yellow eye-stripes. Hobbies are back on heaths and lonely farmland: they are small, fast-flying hawks that feed on dragonflies or on birds they can catch in the air, such as house-martins. Skylarks are nesting in corn and grass: they may be found on any broad open space from moorland to golf courses and airfields.

The whole countryside is turning bright green. Woodpigeons tumble about in the trees, trying to get at the juicy, unfolding leaf-buds. Some horse-chestnut trees and hawthorn bushes are already in full foliage. New flowers opening include yellow archangel, which grows in damp woods and is like a dead-nettle with hooded, orange-yellow blossoms; wild forget-me-nots, which grow in swaths along the woodland edges; and bugle, a sturdy, low-lying plant with deep blue flowers.



Reed warbler

Yellow brimstone butterflies have come out of their winter hiding places, and are dashing erratically along the woodland rides. DJM

Memorial services

Lord Grade
A ceremony of thanksgiving for the life of Lord Grade was held yesterday at the Prince of Wales Theatre, London. Mr Jimmy Tarbuck paid tribute and introduced the following:
The Hon Paul Grade, son, Mr Michael Grade, Lord Thomson of Monifieth, KT, Mr Barry Norman, Mr Gerry Anderson, Mr Michael Eisner, Chairman of the Walt Disney Company, and Mrs Marcia Stanton who paid tribute.

Mr Robert Powell and Miss Susan Hampshire read from Lord Grade's autobiography. Mr Philip Black read from the Talmud. Rabbi Dr Albert Friedlander read a poem by Ben Okri. Dame Diana Rigg read a Tagore poem, and Mr Ian Bannen read a poem written specially for the celebration by Mr Roger McGough. Mr Roger Moore read a poem and paid tribute. Mr Frankie Vaughan, accompanied by Mr Paul Frowde, violin, sang a traditional Jewish lullaby Raisins and Almonds.

During the celebration filmed tributes by the Muppets, Lord Attenborough, Miss Shirley MacLaine, Miss Joan Collins, Mr Robert Daly, chairman, Warner Brothers, Mr Scott Sassa, Head of NBC, and Mr Lalo Schifrin were screened. Among others present were:

Lady Grade (widow), the Hon Mrs Paul Grade (daughter-in-law), Mrs Solly Black, Mrs Phyllis Howard-Harrison and Lady Delfont (sisters-in-law), Mr and Mrs Jack Moody (brother-in-law and sister-in-law), Miss Melanie Dale, Mr Philip Black, Ms Susie Symes, Ms Elizabeth Crompton-Batt, Mr Harry Handelsman, Mr and Mrs Mark Moody, Miss Rebecca Churchward-Viggers, Mr Jonathan Churchward-Steel, the Hon Jenny Delfont, the Hon Susan Delfont, Mrs Michael Grade, Mrs Penny Grade, Alison Grade, Johnathon Grade, Mr and Mrs Brook Land, Miss Leslie Land, Mr Daniel Land, Mr and Mrs Ian Freeman, Mr and Mrs Andrew Freeman, Mr Jerry Perenchio, Mr John Perenchio

Lord and Lady Baker of Dorking, Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare, Lord and Lady Rothschild, Lord Shawcross, QC, and Lady Shawcross, Lord and Lady Renwick, Lord and Lady Rayne, Lord and Lady Hollick, Lord and Lady Puttnam, Lady Thomson of Monifieth, Lord and Lady Lloyd-Webber, Lord and Lady Moore of Wolvercote, Sir Sydney and Lady Samuelson, Sir Nicholas and Lady Lloyd, Sir Paul and Lady Fox, Sir Gordon Reece, Sir Tim Rice, Sir Sigmund Sternberg, Lady (Michele) Renouf.

Mrs Robert Powell, Mrs Barry Norman, Mrs Gerry Anderson, Mrs Michael Eisner, Mrs Ian Bannen, Mrs Frankie Vaughan, Mr and Mr Paul Frowde, Mrs Albert Friedlander, Mr and Mrs Brian Gilmore, Mr Alan Yentob, Mr and Mrs Bruce Gyngell, Mr and Mrs Eddie Bell, Mr and Mrs Brian Tesler, Mr and Mrs Bill Cotton, Mr Vyvyan Harmsworth, Mr and Mrs John Boorman, Mr and Mrs Irwin Shaw, Mr Adam Shaw, Mr Nigel Dempster, Mr Alexander Walker, Mr and Mrs Roger McGough, Mr and Mrs Martin Baker, Mr David Niven, Jr

Mr and Mrs Michael Redington, Mr Richard Compton Miller, Mr Christopher Mann, Mr Leonard Mathews, Mr and Mrs William Treacy, Mr and Mrs Harvey Goldsmith, Mr and Mrs Richard Baker, Mr and Mrs Leslie Grant, Rabbi and Mrs Thomas Salamon, Mr and Mrs John O'Sullivan, Dr and Mrs John Cooke.

Mr John Hough, Mr and Mrs Ward Thomas, Mrs J C Heller, Mr and Mrs Stanley Black, Mr Sydney Kentridge, QC, and Mrs Kentridge, Mr Martin Starger and Ms Carole Ference, Mr Steven Scheffer, Mrs Luanne Wells, Mrs Jane Henson, Mr Frank Ox, Mr and Mrs F Coven, Mrs Zara Land, Mr and Mrs David Esdaile, Miss Stella Richman, Mr and Mrs Guy East, Mrs Roz Chatto.

Mr Michael Linnit, Miss Jean Diamond, Miss Verity Haines, Mr Jeremy Saunders, Mr Nicholas Stanley, Mr David Ramsden, Mr Graham McBain, Mr and Mrs Dennis Michael, Miss Jean Hardwicke, Miss Joan Sandham, Mr and Mrs Leo McInstry, Mr and Mrs Edward Simons, Mr and Mrs Stewart Till, Mr and Mrs Peter Graham Scott, Mr and Mrs Richard Milnes, Mr and Mrs Charles Bridges, Mr Richard McPhail, Ms Maggie Cole, Ms Julia Palan, Mr Michael Chartres, Mr and Mrs John Heyman, Mr and Mrs Bob Baker, Mr and Mrs George Perry, Ms Sawtantar Sharma, Mr and Mrs Melvyn Carlowe, Mr and Mrs James Booth and many other friends and former colleagues.

Lieutenant-Colonel C.L. Boyle
A service of thanksgiving for the life of Lieutenant-Colonel Charles Leofric Boyle, former Secretary of the Fauna Preservation Society, was held yesterday at St Saviour's, Eton Road, Hampstead. The Rev Andrew Pavlibeyi officiated and Ms Jane Bekhor, daughter, read the lesson.

Mrs Boyle, widow, read from the works of Basil the Great, Ms Margaret Denby, daughter, read *Crossing the Bar* by Alfred Lord Tennyson, Ms Bridget Henderson, daughter, read *The Night has a Thousand Eyes* by Francis William Bourdillon and *Time*, and Ms Susannah Jack, daughter, read *And Death shall have no Dominion by Dylan Thomas.*

Major-General D.A. Beckett gave an address.

Festoon of Fruit, a celebration of autumn ripeness by the Dutch painter Cornelis de Heem (1631-95), is among masterpieces lent by British museums for an exhibition of Dutch and Flemish painters at the Richard Green Gallery in London until May 7

Schools news

The Arts Educational School, Tring Park
The summer term begins today at The Arts Educational School, Tring Park, and Gemma Andrews begins her term of office as Head Girl. The Music Showcase is on May 27 and 28 and Founder's Day is Saturday, July 3, when Lesley Joseph will be the Guest of Honour. Term ends with the Midsummer Ball on Friday, July 9.

Bromsgrove School
School convenes today for the Summer Term. The Sixth Form drama production of *The Merry Wives of Windsor* will be performed on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, April 27, 28 and 29, in the Drama Studio. The Orchestral and Concerto concert will take place on Thursday, May 6. Term ends on Saturday, July 3, with Commemoration Day. The guest speaker will be Joanna Womack, Treasurer of Cambridge University. The preacher of the Sir Thomas Cookes Sermon will be the Very Rev Peter Marshall, Dean of Worcester.

The Cheltenham Ladies' College
Term begins today at The Cheltenham Ladies' College. Half term is from 5pm on Friday, May 28, to Sunday, June 6. The Official Opening of Fauconberg Wing by Miss Amanda Wakeley will take place on Friday, May 7. Confirmation by the Right Rev John Went, Bishop of Tewkesbury, will take place in Cheltenham College Chapel at 11am on Saturday, May 15. The Summer Concert will take place in the Princess Hall at 7.30pm on Friday, July 9. Term ends with Speech Day on Saturday, July 10. Professor Gordon McVie, MD, Director General, Cancer Research Campaign will be the Guest Speaker.
The Cheltenham Ladies' College is a registered charity established for the purpose of the education of girls.

Haileybury & Imperial Service College
The Summer Term at Haileybury begins today. C.J.Crauford (Trevelyan) continues as Head of School. The Summer Concert will be on May 28 and Speech Day on May 29 when the Preacher at the Commemoration Service will be the Rev Dr Emma Hebblethwaite, Chaplain of King's College, Cambridge and member of the Haileybury Council and the Guest of Honour and Speaker will be Dame Fiona Caldicott, Principal of Somerville College, Oxford. The Haileybury Orchestra and Choir will give a concert at St Martin-in-the-Fields at 7.30pm on Tuesday, May 11. The Haileybury Society Annual Reunion for those who left school before 1965 will be held on June 5 at 12 noon, jointly hosted by The Master and the President of the Society, Barry Clarke, FCA. Term ends on July 3.

Merchant Taylors' School
Summer term at Merchant Taylors' School begins today. Inspection Day is on Friday, May 7, when the Inspecting Officer will be Rear Admiral R.P. Stevens. OMTs and friends are invited to attend a Memorial Service for Peter Ingram in the Great Hall on Sunday, May 9, at 3pm, followed by tea in the Dining Hall. Open Morning is on Saturday, May 15. Confirmation will be held on Monday, May 17, in the School Chapel and St Barnabas (Prizegiving) is on Saturday, June 5. OMT Day is on Sunday, June 26. Jonathan Fienberg is Captain of Cricket. Music Week begins on Wednesday, June 23, with *Summer Serenade* at 8.00pm on Tuesday, June 29. Term ends on Thursday, July 1.

Reed's School
Summer Term began on Sunday, April 18, with Alastair Hamilton as Captain of School and Julian Doyle and Matthew Lindsay as Deputies. Timothy Klimcke will be Captain of Cricket. An Open Morning will be held on May 15, and an Open Evening on May 26 for prospective parents. The annual Choral Society Concert will form part of a two day festival of music on May 8/9 which will also mark the official launch of the Reed's School Performing Arts Centre Appeal. The Old Reedonian Reunion Day will be held on Saturday, June 26, and there will be a buffet lunch for those former pupils who left between 1951 and 1955 and between 1976 and 1980. Term ends on Saturday, July 3, with Speech Day when the prizes will be presented by Lord Dearing.

Repton School
Summer Term begins today. Speech Day will be on Saturday, May 29, and the guest of honour will be Matthew Parris. The preacher at Commemoration will be the Very Rev Michael Perham, Provost of Derby. The Leather Lecture on April 23 will be given by Dr David Starkey. There will be a Gaudy for Old Reptonian boys of 1936-40 and 1976-80 and girls of 1979-84. The Repton Foundation has been established with the aim of Renewing the Legacy of Sir John Port by building up a capital fund of £10m to promote developments at the school.

St George's School, Ascot
Boarders returned to St George's School, Ascot yesterday and School opens today for the Summer Term. Antonia Phillips continues as Head Girl. Open Afternoon for prospective Sixth Form Entrants is on Friday, April 30, 12-4pm. Half Term is Friday, May 28, to Sunday, June 6. The Third Year History Visit to Normandy takes place June 9-12. Freshers' Day for 1999 entry will be held on Sunday, June 13. The Annual Music for a Summer Evening Concert is on Wednesday, June 30, 7.30pm. Term ends Friday, July 2, with Junior Prize Giving at 10am and the Senior Prize Giving at 1.30pm. A Music Tour will take place in the Charente region of France from July 3-10.

Wymondham College, Norfolk
Term begins today at the College and Phase 2 of the Design and Technology Building will be opened on May 7 by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary for School Standards, Mr Charles Clarke, MP. The College production of *The Pilgrimage* by Paul Goetzee as part of the BT National Connections competition will hopefully travel to Cambridge to perform at one of the major festival venues. The reunion for former students is on July 17, focusing mainly on 1970s leavers but others are welcome. Open days this term are to be on Saturday, May 8, and Saturday, June 12. The Year 7 Boarding House is now only able to accept applications for the waiting list for September. For further information and newsletter please contact the College on 01953 605566.

Some schools have had to be held over because of pressure of space

Forthcoming marriages

Mr M.K. Hodges and Miss N.J. Noel-Smith
The engagement is announced between Michael, son of Mr Anthony Hodges and Mrs Mary Hodges, of Harare, Zimbabwe, and Nicola, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs John Noel-Smith, of Prayssas, France.

Mr M.L. Milhench and Miss H.D. Ogilvie
The engagement is announced between Mark, son of Mr and Mrs Howard Milhench, of Sharpthorne, West Sussex, and Helen, daughter of the late Dr John Ogilvie and of Dr Ogilvie, of Hitchin, Hertfordshire.

Mr D.P. Mullins and Miss J. Fairbrother
The engagement is announced between David Patrick Mullins, of Richmond, Surrey, and Justine Fairbrother, of Burgess Hill, Sussex.

Major R.A. Owers and Miss N.M. Bourke
The engagement is announced between Roly, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Keith Owers, of Worth Abbey, Sussex, and Nikki, daughter of Mr and Mrs Patrick Bourke, of Chettle, Dorset.

Mr R.D.H. Peart and Miss E.V.I'A. Widdows
The engagement is announced between Roger, son of Mr and Mrs David Peart, of Hurworth, Co Durham, and Emily, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Robin Widdows, of S'Arraco, Mallorca.

Mr L.C. Wrightson and Miss S-J.M. Coles
The engagement is announced between Laurence, son of the late Mr David Wrightson, of Yalding, Kent, and of Mrs David Wrightson, of Wells, Somerset, and Sara-Jane, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs David Coles, of Thorney, Cambridgeshire.

Marriages

Mr J.G. Cubitt and Miss E.L Ogilvy
Princess Alexandra and the Hon Sir Angus Ogilvy attended the marriage of Mr Jonathan Cubitt, son of Sir Hugh and Lady Cubitt of Dorking, Surrey, to Miss Emma Ogilvy, younger daughter of the Hon James Ogilvy, of Grantham, Lincolnshire, and the Hon Mrs James Ogilvy, of London, SW11, held on Saturday at Cortachy Kirk, Tayside. Mr Dennis Leadbeater and Father Neil Gallagher officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Marina Ayton, Zenouska Mowatt, Antonia Speir, Charlotte Goffin, Sophie Harding-Rolls, Lily Wright, Sebastian Goffin, Archie Smyth-Osbourne, George Harding-Rolls, Sam Baring and William Fortescue. Mr Andrew Loyd was best man.

A reception was held at Cortachy Castle and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

Mr R.M.C. Watson and Lady Vanessa Brown
The marriage took place quietly in London, on April 15, 1999, between Mr Rupert Watson and Lady Vanessa Brown.

Mr W.E.K. Watts and the Hon Laura Goodhart
The marriage took place on Saturday at St Lawrence Jewry-next-Guildhall, London EC2, of Mr William Watts, son of Mrs Gillian Watts, of Treyarnon Bay, Cornwall, and Mr Jeffrey Watts, of Windsor, to the Hon Laura Goodhart, younger daughter of Lord and Lady Goodhart, of Regent's Park, London NW1. The Rev David Burgess officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Josephine Dallas, Maud Goodhart, Elizabeth Gunton-Bunn, Jessica Maynard Herbert, Gwendolen Mitchell, Michael Gunton-Bunn, Jo Lawrence Moggridge and Peter Roberts. Mr Philip Abbott was best man.

A reception was held in Lincoln's Inn and the honeymoon will be spent in Ireland.

Mr J.G.G. Beaumont and Miss J.S. Baines
The marriage took place on Saturday at the Church of St Cuthbert, Kildale, near Whitby, North Yorkshire, of Mr Justin Beaumont, of Kildale, elder son of the Hon M.H. Beaumont, of Northumberland, and Mrs A.F. Maitland, of London, to Miss Jacqueline Baines, daughter of Mr and Mrs S. Baines, of Guisborough, Cleveland. The Rev Richard Rowling officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Freddy Erskine, Miss Heather Baines and Miss Molly Cuthbert. Mr Robert Gladders was best man.

A reception was held at Pinchinthorpe Hall.

Mr C.E.R.C. Rhodes and Mlle A-F.B. Grouchy de Vornez
The marriage took place on Saturday at St Anne's, Baslow, Derbyshire, of Mr Charles Rhodes, only son of Colonel Sir Basil and Lady Rhodes, of Baslow, to Mlle Béatrice Grouchy de Vornez, daughter of the late Comte Jean-François Grouchy de Vornez and of Mme Grouchy de Vornez, of Stockholm. Canon Richard Orchard and the Rev Gösta Björling officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by the bridegroom's father, was attended by Miss Elisabeth Ramel Lagerquist, Miss Mari Libeck, Xa Rodger and Jack Cooper. Mr Rupert Nicholas Stephenson was best man.

A reception was held at the home of the bridegroom and the honeymoon will be spent in Kenya.

Mr G. Crewdson and Miss F.M. Nunneley
The marriage took place on Saturday at St Peter's Church, Milton Lilbourne, Wiltshire, of Mr Giles Crewdson, son of Mr and the Hon Mrs Peregrine Crewdson, to Miss Frances Nunneley, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Charles Nunneley. The Rev Colin Fox officiated, assisted by the Rev Mary Crameri.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Ben and Sally Chapple, Joss Crewdson, Sarah and Thomas Nunneley and Milo Soames. Mr William Crewdson was best man.

A reception was held at the home of the bride and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

Mr D.I.L. McQueen and Miss S.M. Vuckovic
Dr and Mrs I.N.F. McQueen, of Cardiff, and Mr and Mrs M. Vuckovic, of Belgrade, announce that the marriage of Mr David McQueen and Miss Silva Vuckovic took place on April 16, 1999, at Egerton Grey Country House, near Cardiff.

Dinner

London Pembrokeshire Society
Brigadier Rolph James, President of the London Pembrokeshire Society, presided at the annual dinner held on Friday at Innholders' Hall, London. The Dean of St David's Cathedral, Lieutenant-Colonel S. Tate US Army (a descendant of Col Tate who commanded the French invasion of Fishguard in 1797), and Miss Eleanor Davies, committee chairman, also spoke.

Spectacle Makers' Company

The Spectacle Makers' Company presented its frame design awards at the NEC Birmingham on Saturday. The first student prize went to Ms Vicky Newman, of the University of Wales Institute, Cardiff.

Anniversaries

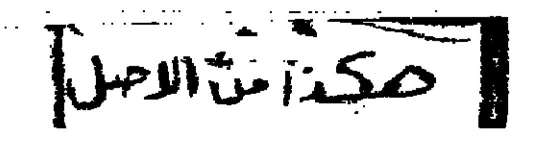
BIRTHS: David Ricardo, economist, London, 1772; Richard Hughes, novelist, Weybridge, Surrey, 1900; Jim Mollison, aviator, Glasgow, 1905.

DEATHS: Queen Christina of Sweden, reigned 1644-54, Rome, 1689; George Gordon Byron, 6th Baron Byron, poet, Missolonghi, Greece, 1824; Benjamin Disraeli, 1st Earl of Beaconsfield, Prime Minister 1868 and 1874-80, London, 1881; Charles Darwin, naturalist, Down, Kent, 1882; Pierre Curie, physicist, Nobel laureate 1903, Paris, 1906; Daphne du Maurier, novelist, Cornwall, 1989.

The War of American Independence began with the defeat of the British at Lexington, 1775.

Prince Rainier of Monaco married the actress Grace Kelly, 1956





LORD CAYZER

Lord Cayzer, Chairman of *British and Commonwealth* Shipping, 1958-87, and of Caledonia Investments, 1958-94, died on April 16 aged 89. He was *born on January 21, 1910.*

For many years one of the bastions of the City's shipping community, Nicholas Cayzer was the grandson of Sir Charles Cayzer, 1st Baronet, the founder of Clan Line Steamers, whose merger with Union Castle *led to the* creation of British and Commonwealth Shipping in 1955. The years of Nicholas Cayzer's stewardship were ones of steady decline in the British *shipping* industry. At the turn of the century half the world's merchant ships had flown the British flag and even in 1950 Britain still had 30 per cent of the ships afloat.

By 1960 that figure was down to 15 per cent and ten years later stood at 11 per cent. The next decade saw *an acceleration in the decline and* by the end of it the figure was down to below 5 per cent.

But Cayzer was a shrewd businessman as well as a proud shipowner. During his chairman*ship he* oversaw a diversification by British and Commonwealth into a broad spread of business interests, investing in office equipment, financial services, hotels and air transport. By the end of this period shipping formed a very minor part of British and Commonwealth's business. The 100-ship fleet it had inherited from the merger of Clan Line and Union Castle was down to just six ships.

Finally, in the summer of 1987 *Caledonia Investments, the financial* vehicle of the Cayzer family, withdrew all but a small proportion of its longstanding investment in British and Commonwealth, receiving more than £300 million for its stake.

Hence, Caledonian and the personal fortune of the Cayzer family were untouched by the events of "Black Monday", the stock market crash of October 1987, which left British and Commonwealth in severe difficulties.

Earlier that year Cayzer had been named the ninth richest man in Britain by a survey in *Elite* magazine, with a fortune estimated at £500 million.

William Nicholas Cayzer was born at Mauchline, Ayrshire, the son of Sir August Cayzer, 1st Baronet. Himself the third son of Sir Charles Cayzer, August Cayzer had been created a baronet in 1921. Charles Cayzer, who had bought his first merchant ship, *Clan Alpine*, in 1878, had been created a *baronet in 1904.*

Nicholas Cayzer was educated at Eton and Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, where he read history. He entered Clan Line Steamers on coming down from university in 1931, and by 1938 was a director, subsequently to become chairman.

When the Second World War broke out he wanted to serve, and for a brief period was in the Army. But it was clear that his shipping knowhow would be much more valuable to the war effort than his eye behind the sights of a rifle could, and he was soon brought back to the firm to help with the organisation of convoys. He succeeded to the baronetcy on his *father's death in 1943. He was* chairman of the Liverpool Steam Ship Owners' Association, 1944-45, Liverpool being Clan Line's home port.

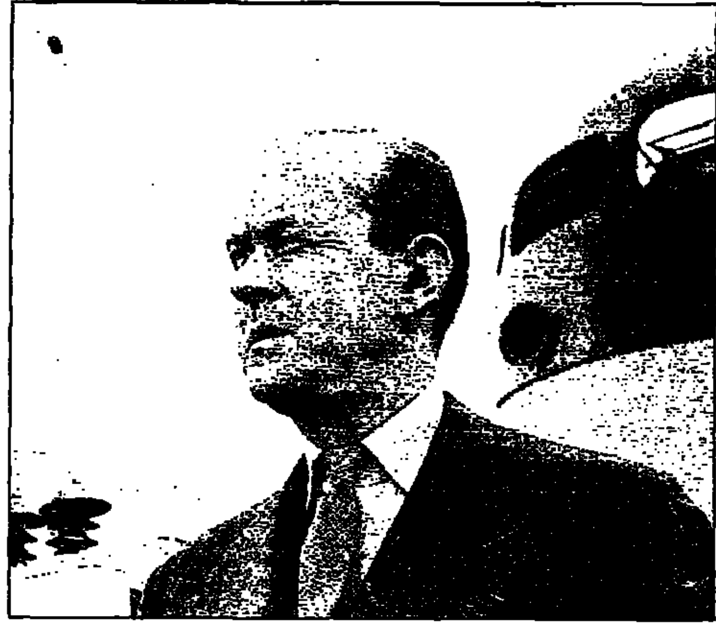
In 1948, on the death of Major Harold Cayzer, he became vice-chairman of Clan Line under his uncle, the 1st Lord Rotherwick, and *in 1955 he took a leading part in the* negotiations which led to the merger of Clan Line with the Union Castle Mail Steamship Co to form British and Commonwealth Shipping. On the death of Lord Rotherwick in 1958, he became chairman of the new company.

Thereafter, in addition to his shrewd stewardship of British and Commonwealth Shipping, he was president of the Chamber of Shipping and chairman of the General Council of British Shipping, as well as being president of the Institute of Marine Engineers, 1963-64.

He was also a member of the Mersey Dock and Harbour Board and of the National Dock Labour *Board. As such he frequently had to* deal with the increasingly intractable labour problems which beset the shipping industry. He was created a life peer in 1982.

After selling his family's interests in British and Commonwealth in 1987 and stepping down as chairman, Cayzer continued as chairman of Caledonia Investments until 1994 when he became president of the company. In retirement he continued to be an enthusiastic golfer and was a fine shot.

Nicholas Cayzer married, in 1935, Elizabeth Catherine, daughter of Owain Williams. She died in 1995 and he is survived by their two daughters.



Cayzer on board a Union Castle ship in the 1960s

AIR COMMODORE G. J. 'TAFFY' POWELL

Air Commodore G. J. "Taffy" Powell, CBE, operations director of the wartime Atlantic air ferry organisation, died on March 8 aged 91. He was born on *August 11, 1907.*

IN THE 1930s, when it seemed that the future of long-range air travel lay in the flying boat rather than in airliners operating from land, Taffy Powell undertook transatlantic flights' as Imperial Airways sought to develop its long-distance routes. Later, after war had broken out, he returned to the RAF where he had started his flying career, and played an important role in the development of Ferry Command which systema*tised the delivery of the vast* numbers of aircraft which had to be brought across the Atlantic from American factories for use in the European war theatre.

Griffith James Powell was born in Cardiff. He had originally intended to be an engineer, and for that purpose went to Bristol University. But Bristol, with its famous aircraft company, sparked an interest in flying and in 1926 he joined the RAF, where the *metamorphosis* of Griffith to Taffy was very soon accom*plished — and the nickname* stuck fast. His first posting was to No 58 Squadron, then commanded by Arthur (later "Bomber") Harris. Even then, the fiery Harris was firmly convinced of the efficacy of night bombing, and No 58 got plenty of practice at it.

Powell's next posting was as an instructor at the Central Flying School, where he played rugby, in the process encountering Douglas Bader who played scrum half for the RAF College, Cranwell. Both men took and gave hard knocks in a series of highly competitive matches between CFS and Cranwell.

Powelll found his next job — instructor to the Auxiliary Air Force — less enjoyable, and when, in 1930, Imperial Airways began advertising for ex-bomber pilots to develop its African routes, he jumped at the chance and left the RAF. Soon he was taking Imperial's first four-engined airliner to South Africa.

Next, after taking his Master Pilot's Licence — the first issued for both landplanes and flying boats — he set out on a series of transatlantic proving flights in the Short C Class flying boat *Cambria* (the flying boats were named rather as if they had been ships). In the course of these in 1937 he set a record for the crossing between Newfoundland and Ireland of 10 hours 33 minutes. This stood for seven years until he himself broke it in a Liberator bomber in 1944.

Powell's navigational skills came to Imperial's aid in January 1939 when *Cambria*'s sister "ship" *Cavalier* had to ditch in the Atlantic while on a flight between New York and Bermuda. As night fell, air searches had to be called off and hope for passengers and crew faded. But the navigational knowhow of Powell, who was then in Bermuda as Imperial's operations manager, calculated a likely position for the ditching and directed the nearest ship, the tanker *Esso Baytown*, to the spot. The master of the tanker found Powell's estimated position was accurate to within a few hundred yards, and the ten survivors of the crash were rescued.

When war came in 1939 Powell tried to rejoin the RAF but was told that at 32 he was too old for active service. A chance meeting with an old RAF messmate led to his joining the Royal Canadian *Air Force, where he became a* navigation specialist with Eastern Air Command, providing air cover for Atlantic convoys.

With the ordering of a large number of American-built Hudson bombers by Britain to increase the effectiveness of convoy protection, it became imperative to devise a systematic air ferry system to get the aircraft from their factories in California to RAF Coastal Command's bases. Within a few months the Imperial Airways transatlantic team of 1937 had reassembled in Canada to form the Atlantic Ferry Organisation (Aftero), and Powell had been disentangled *from the RCAF and put in* charge of the ferry system's forward base at Gander, Newfoundland. He subsequently became operations controller of Aftero.

On November 10, 1940, the first squadron of Hudsons, led by Don Bennett (later to found the Pathfinder Force) left America and all arrived safely in Britain. The first span of the Atlantic air bridge was in place. Powell was subsequently posted back to Bermuda to establish another link, the delivery of Catalina flying boats to Greenock on the Clyde, a flight which often took the slow-flying Catalina 24 hours.

In June 1941 Aftero became RAF Ferry Command (in 1943 its name changed again, to 45 Group Transport Command) and undertook all the transport and communications tasks associated with the mass of aircraft pouring into Britain as the war proceeded and the *invasion of Europe loomed.* The ferry operation also supplied aircraft for the Desert Air Force and anti-tank ammunition for the 8th Army in North Africa. In June 1943 Powell was reinstated in the RAF with the rank of air commodore and appointed CBE. By the end of the war the ferry operation had delivered more than 9,000 aircraft, losing only 74 in the process.

After the war Powell returned to civilian life and set up British Aviation Services, a ferry organisation which delivered war surplus transport aircraft to the rapidly growing commercial airline sector. When BAS became Silver City Airways, Powell became its managing director. Familiar in the 1950s for its car ferry service in bulb-nosed Bristol Freighters between Lympne and Le Touquet, Silver City Airways started life doing something very different. In the fraught months of the partition of India and Pakistan it was involved in the mass airlifting of Hindus and Muslims between the two countries.

At its peak in 1954 Silver City was carrying 40,000 cars and 100,000 passengers a year. On one single July day that year Silver City aircraft crossed the Channel 222 times.

In 1957 Powell stepped down from his post at Silver City, which had by then been taken over by P&O, but within a few months was back in harness as BOAC director of the troubled subsidiary, British West Indian Airlines. He subsequently moved to Nassau as *chairman and managing director* of Bahamas Airways before finally retiring to the South of France, where he had lived quietly for the past thirty years.

His wife Marion died in 1995 after 62 years of marriage. He is survived by his two sons.

Powell, centre, and other Imperial Airways aircrew planning a transatlantic flight by the flying boat *Cambria* in 1937

SIR IAN McADAM

Sir Ian McAdam, OBE, *surgeon, died on March 4* aged 82. He was born on February 15, 1917.

IAN McADAM inspired a generation of tropical surgeons by his charismatic leadership, outstanding teaching skills and surgical gifts. During his time in Uganda, from 1946 to 1972, he played a leading role in the development of Mulago Hospital and *the Makerere University Medical School in Kampala*, creating a centre of excellence which not only served the needs of developing Africa but attracted surgeons and surgical trainees from all parts of the globe. His expulsion by Idi Amin was a sign of the destruction that was to come.

Ian William James McAdam was born in South Africa, the second of four sons of a mining engineer, who had gone out originally to serve with the British forces in the Boer War and who settled eventually in Shabani, Southern Rhodesia, where he managed the asbestos mine. All four brothers served in turn as head boy at Plumtree School, Southern Rhodesia.

From an early age Ian *McAdam wanted to be a* surgeon, so he studied medicine at Edinburgh University. Following a period as supervisor in anatomy at Cambridge University he returned to Edinburgh to work with Sir James Learmonth as the Wilkie Surgical Research Fellow, participating in the excitement surrounding the early successful use of penicillin to treat osteomyelitis and invasive bacterial infec*tion.*

He *married* Hrothgarde (*née* Gibson) in 1939 and despite an invitation to stay on in Edinburgh after the war, opted to return to Africa in 1946 to take up a post in Uganda. As senior surgical specialist to the Ugandan Government he was on occasion the only surgeon at Mulago, the main government hospital in Kampala and the forerun*ner of the showpiece hospital* which came into being at the time of independence.

The wealth of surgical experience he now acquired laid the foundation for the skills as a teacher of the art, science and craft of surgery for which he became world renowned. He was *duly appointed to the* chair of surgery at Makerere University, then the only medical school in East Africa.

McAdam was a superb operating surgeon, whose skills encompassed a vast range of specialities. But he was per*haps even more influential as* a surgical teacher. His teaching rounds on the wards were legendary, the knowledge be*ing imparted in a manner* which challenged but never ridiculed. His abiding commitment to the training of doctors gave the school a growing reputation as a source of graduates able to work in the remote communities and isolated hospitals of East Africa.

The first generation of East African surgeons were trained *in his department. McAdam* also encouraged the establishment of other medical schools in the region. Many of his trainees returned to develop prominent roles in the surgical services of their own countries.

Although McAdam would not have claimed to be a prominent scientist and surgical research worker, he knew quality science when he saw it, *made major contributions to* the development of clinical surgery and created an environment in which research could flourish. He was involved with the establishment of the Uganda Blood Transfusion Service, the Polio Treatment Centre and the Cancer Institute, was a founder member and later the president of the East African Association of Surgeons, and in 1975 was awarded the John Bruce Medal by the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh.

McAdam was deeply committed to the development of a multiracial society in Uganda and strove to ensure that the new hospital did not perpetuate the folly of an earlier system in which the Kampala hospitals were segregated ac*cording to the racial origin of* their patients.

He found time for many activities outside surgery, representing Uganda at several sports, including tennis, cricket and golf, and winning national titles at golf, tennis and motor rallying. Other hobbies included photography, gardening and a deep love of the African bush and its wildlife.

His first marriage ended in divorce in 1961. Six years later he was married for the second time, to Pamela Hunt (*née* Medawar), and their home in Kampala was a haven of hospitality.

When President Obote was shot in the head, McAdam operated — but only after soldiers brandishing automatic weapons had been cleared from the immediate confines of the operating theatre. But he was to fall foul of another President. *It was a cruel day* for Uganda when in 1972 he was expelled by Idi Amin, along with the professors of medicine and obstetrics. Among the reasons cited were the efforts of the three to help Asian colleagues to find posts overseas. *He could hardly have been happy to remain* under that regime.

After a year at the National Cancer Institute in Washington, the call of Africa and *its big skies proved more alluring* than a number of job offers in the northern hemisphere. The McAdams settled near Plettenburg Bay *in South Africa*, where he undertook all the surgery at the Knysna Hospital, operating until he was 72.

He retired to Middleton Stoney, Oxfordshire, in 1992 after 65 years in Africa, moving recently to Devon to be closer to his immediate family.

McAdam was knighted in 1966 for services to Uganda. He had been appointed OBE in 1957.

He is survived by *his wife* Pamela and by the children of his first marriage, two daughters and a son who is a professor of tropical medicine.



McAdam in Africa: an inspiration to a generation of tropical surgeons

Latest wills

Major-General Sir Charles **Dunphie**, *of Wincanton, Somerset*, left estate valued at £1,355,542 net.

Sir Denys **Buckley**, a Lord Justice of Appeal 1970-81, left estate valued at £333,059 net.
He left £500 each to the Merchant Taylors' Company and to Lincoln's Inn, and £200 to the Old Stagers.

Lady Catto, of Minchinhampton, Gloucestershire, and London *SW11, left estate valued at* £1,102,603 net.

Lady Hailsham of St Marylebone, of London SW15, left estate valued at £320,944 net.

Jocelyn Lady Londesborough, of Newport, Isle of Wight, left estate valued at £380,047 net.

Sir William **Stuttaford**, of Great Wigborough, Colchester, Essex, left estate valued at £4,178,387 net.

Mr Lancelot Guy **Allgood**, of Hexham, Northumberland, left estate valued at £13,140,544 net.
He left £5,000 each to the Roman Catholic Church at Hexham and the Northern Brethren's Fund (Hexham and Newcastle Diocese).

Mr James Walton **Reynard**, of Tholthorpe, York, left estate valued at £11,323,789 net.

Mr Sydney Lawrence **Duckitt**, of Cookley, Kidderminster, Worcestershire, left estate valued at £7,318,527 net.

Mrs Suzanne Mary Howell **Skelton**, of London NW8, left estate valued at £3,771,463 net.

Audrey Vaughan **Bain**, of Newport, South Wales, left estate valued at £2,316,488 net.
She left £10,000 to St Woolos Cathedral, Newport, plus shares in her residuary estate to the Association for International Cancer Research, Imperial Cancer Research Fund, International Fund for Animal Welfare, Breast Cancer Campaign, St Anne's Hospice of St Joseph's Private Hospital, Malpas, and St David's Foundation, Newport.

Mr Ian Dawson **Grant**, of London W11, left estate valued at £2,089,032 net.
He left £1,000 to the Governors of Westminster School and £200 to the Noise Abatement Society.

Mr Dudley Norman **Latter**, of Redland, Bristol, left estate valued at £2,842,369 net.

Betty Evelyn **Rogers**, of Gerrards Cross, *Buckinghamshire, left* estate valued at £2,775,011 net.
She left £10,000 each to the Thames Valley Hospice and the World Cancer Research Fund.

Mrs Jill Adrienne **Walford**, of Pound Green, Baughurst, Hampshire, left estate valued at £2,358,383 net.
She left £500 each to The Samaritans, The Friends of Progressive Judaism in Israel, World Wildlife Fund and the Liberal Jewish Synagogue.

Mr Frederick George **Bedford**, of Torquay, Devon, left estate valued at £1,016,005 net.
He left £1,000 each to Torbay Hospital League of Friends, the Parkinson's Disease Society, and the National Society for Cancer Relief Torquay branch.

Mr Steven Michael **Critchley**, of Retford, Nottingham, left estate valued at £1,225,680 net.

Eva May **Downes**, of Exmouth, Devon, left estate valued at £1,180,444 net.

Mr Henry Julian **Downing**, of Hampstead, London NW3, left estate valued at £1,025,805.

Mr Ceridwen **Gordon**, of Toddington, Dunstable, Bedfordshire, left estate valued at £1,051,351 net.

Audrey **Draycott**, of Woodmancote, Henfield, West Sussex, left estate valued at £1,481,411 net.
She left £10,000 to Tarner Home, Tilbury Place, Brighton.

Mr Edmund **Hine**, of Alderley Edge, Cheshire, left estate valued at £1,048,442 net.

Mrs Pamela Mary **Hope**, of Milford on Sea, Hampshire, left estate valued at £1,150,713.

Mrs Marlies **James**, of Wimbledon, left estate valued at £1,600,915 net.

Mr Alfred William **Kirby**, of West Branksome, Poole, Dorset, left estate valued at £1,237,942 net.

Mr John Reginald **Mathews**, of Crossenny, Abergavenny, Monmouthshire, left estate valued at £1,357,499 net.

Betty Ziela Mary **Pether**, of Hillhead, Fareham, Hampshire, left estate valued at £1,050,180 net.
She left £200 to the Royal UK Benevolent Association.

Mr George William **Pykett**, of Cotmanhay, Ilkeston, Derbyshire, left estate valued at £1,311,328.

Mr Richard Peter **Yates**, of Wrea Green, near Preston, left estate valued at £1,145,632 net.

ON THIS DAY

April 19, 1926

Tough talk from the miners' secretary, in the year of the General Strike, illustrates the bitter rift between them and the colliery owners.

THE COST OF A STRIKE

Mr. A. J. COOK, the miners' secretary, speaking at an industrial conference at Clapham on Saturday, said the onus of the crisis lay with the owners and the Government. The miners wanted peace and a living wage. The owners wanted war to depress wages and lengthen hours. The miners would win if that issue was forced. The present wages, continued Mr. Cook, were a disgrace to a civilized community. The owners and the Government demanded from the miners further sacrifice in longer hours and lower wages. The owners refused to discuss with the miners' accredited representatives nationally the wages they intended to impose. All the customs, conditions, and wages that had taken half a century to build up, after the greatest struggles and sacrifices, were to be wiped out, and notices had been given to many of their men. The employers intended to lock them out. This was no ordinary crisis. All the workers were involved, and the miners in every country were bound up in the struggle. They had reached a stage when it was not a mere wage issue that was involved. Even the biggest Tory now would say there must be a change somewhere. The Prime Minister could not afford to ignore the Miners' Federation. One miner was worth more than 12 Bishops; the Bishops got the money and the miner got the work. The miner never got one increase in wages voluntarily. Was there anybody there dull enough to believe that the Government were going to help them? The Government were sure to back the owners. The struggle must involve not only the miners but the whole of the working classes. The miners must make up their minds that they were not going to retreat any more. They had got the whole trade union movement in the country pledged to defend the miners' hours, wages, and national agreements. Abroad they had made arrangements that no coal should come into this country. "My last word" to the Government," said Mr. Cook, "is 'Count the cost'. The cost of a strike of the miners would mean the end of capitalism. Let me warn the Government that there is a new mentality in the police, the Army, the Navy, and the Air Force. Ninety-seven per cent, of the recruits for the past two years have come from the working classes, and thousands of them miners, who will not shoot against their kith and kin when the order comes, and we shall not be afraid to advise them. (Cheers). This is a war to the death, and it is your death they are after. It is your wages they want."

NEWS

Poison cloud engulfs Belgrade

■ An ecological catastrophe was unfolding in the Balkans yesterday after Nato deliberately bombed a combined petrochemicals, fertiliser and refinery complex on the banks of the Danube in the northern outskirts of Belgrade.

A series of detonations that shook the whole city early sent a deeply toxic cloud of smoke and gasses hundreds of feet into the night sky. In the opaque dawn the choking cloud could be seen spreading over the entire northern skyline............Page 1, 9-13

Counting the cost of war

■ Gordon Brown has ordered a running audit of the "fantastically uncertain" cost of the war amid fears that it could exhaust the Treasury reserves set aside for emergencies. Teams of officials from four departments are working full time on estimates of the final total and its impact on the public account....Page 1

Pinochet fights on

The former Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet pledged yesterday to fight Jack Straw's decision to allow extradition proceedings against him to go ahead...Page 2

Adams warning

Gerry Adams gave a warning that, if London and Dublin insisted on IRA disarmament before admitting Sinn Fein to an executive, the Good Friday peace accord was "dead"........................Page 2

Winning woman

A 28-year-old Kenyan mother had the biggest payday for a single event in women's athletics history when she earned £210,000 for winning the Flora London Marathon..............................Pages 1, 3

Market bomber

Police gave warning that the "vicious and reckless" bomber behind the nail-bomb attack on a London market could strike again.. Senior police and ministers said that the bomber may have wanted to kill rather than maim his victims......Pages 1, 4, 5

Sunrise view

Hordes of visitors descended on the Royal Academy for their last chance to catch a Monet sunrise. The first 24-hour exhibition in Britain enabled thousands of people, who could not get tickets during normal hours, to see *Monet in the 20th Century*..........Page 6

Hume prayers

Christian congregations of all denominations across Britain joined in prayer yesterday for Cardinal Basil Hume, Archbishop of Westminster, who has disclosed that he is dying of cancer. Page 7

Killer's confession

The family of the man murdered by Tracie Andrews yesterday accused her of trying to "save her own skin" after she finally confessed to the killing, in a letter from prison. Andrews, who was jailed for life in 1997 for the murder of Lee Harvey after claiming that an unknown "road rage" killer had stabbed him 35 times, wrote that she had "lost all control"..................................Page 14

Sport of royals

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh are not the most dedicated of football fans but they will be unable to avoid the game when they begin a four-day state visit to South Korea today, the first by a British monarch to the tiger economy that is struggling to recover its roar..........................Page 15

Indonesia 'cleansing'

Armed pro-Indonesian militiamen were in control of the East Timorese capital of Dili last night after a weekend of terror in which a loyalist leader called for the "cleansing" of all those who are in favour of independence from Indonesia...............................Page 16

The ja's (almost) have it

■ The German parliament meets for the first time today in the new Reichstag, decked out with a glass dome that shines out of the Berlin gloom like a lighthouse in the fog. Everyone seems pleased with the architect, Sir Norman Foster, though there are still a few grumbles about brightly coloured wooden panels and the narrow widths of the seats..................................Page 16



If winter comes: Sledgers above Holme, near Holmfirth, West Yorkshire, enjoying the unseasonal April weather yesterday

BUSINESS

Taxing issue: The meeting of European finance minister in Dresden failed to yield any developments on EU plans to put a 20 per cent withholding tax on eurobonds..Page 52

Checking out: City dealers are likely to learn sooner rather than later whether their bets on a hostile takeover bidder for Asda will bear fruit. On Friday the supermarket group agreed to a £17.5 billion merger with Kingfisher........................Page 52

Useful acquisition: Lord Lloyd-Webber, the composer has bought back the 30 per cent he did not own of Really Useful Group.........Page 52

Scottish question: The Government has offered concessions on the Private Finance Initiative at the Scottish Trades Union Congress, which meets today.............Page 49

FEATURES

Waiting game: As the Nato action in Serbia intensifies, those who were there can only wait for news and despair. Lucy Hawking interviews a peace monitor and Eve-Ann Prentice speaks to three exiled Kosovans...................................Page 17

Degree of choice: Choosing a university place was never easy but it has become even more confusing in recent years. Not only are more courses available but prospective students are bombarded by glitzy promotional material..........Page 45

FASHION

Great clothes: Red Godfrey has launched designs that will become long-term players — beautifully cut, understated and perfect to wear every day............Pages 18, 19

ARTS

German jewel: The British architect Sir Norman Foster has restored Berlin's parliament, the Reichstag, to its original architectural glory in a £200 million reconstruction...Page 20

Optimistic dramatist: Jonathan Harvey's *Hushabye Mountain*, at the Hampstead Theatre, proves there is something defiantly good-natured about his work.......Page 20

Stratford star: Ray Fearon set young hearts aflutter as Romeo for the RSC last season. Now he is tackling the rather more grown-up role of Othello in Stratford..........Page 21

Welcome visitor: The Italian pianist Maurizio Pollini reveals renewed energy and focus in his Festival Hall programme of Schubert and Schumann]...................Page 21

SPORT

Football: Chelsea missed a glorious chance to close the gap at the top of the FA Carling Premiership as Leicester City scored twice in the last ten minutes.......................Page 27

London marathon: Abdelkader El Mouaziz broke away from a star-studded field to become the first Moroccan to win the race, first staged in 1981.........................Page 29

Snooker: Dominic Dale established a record points tally in a frame after several misses by his opponent and a century break in the World Championship.........Page 29

Golf: Englishman Lee Westwood maintained his remarkable record in play-offs by winning the Macau Open at the second extra hole, but Darren Clarke was penalised for turning up late......................Page 38

Cup final: Millwall supporters outnumbered those of Wigan Athletic five to one but they went home miserable after a 1-0 defeat in the Auto Windscreens Trophy final..Page 33

Racing: The Henry Cecil-trained *Enrique* has been installed as the new Sagitta 2,000 Guineas favourite after winning the Tripleprint Stakes at Newbury..............Page 39

LOTTERY NUMBERS

3, 16, 28, 29, 41, 46. Bonus: 6

One ticket won £8,185,387; 12 tickets with five numbers and the bonus won £209,881 each; 742 tickets won £2,121 for five numbers; 41,954 won £82 for four numbers; 822,874 won £10 for three numbers.

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ **ARTS**

The National Portrait Gallery finds out why there is more to the artist than meets the eye

■ **LAW**

The deal that could spell the end of legal aid

RADIO & TV

Preview: Two-part thriller: *Butterfly collectors* (ITV, 9pm) **Review:** He dreamt big and the world dreamt with him: *The Great White Hoax*...........................Pages 50,51

OPINION

On two fronts

Western public understanding of what is at stake over Kosovo is clearer than it ever was over Bosnia. But at this critical juncture, decisive leadership is essential. If politicians falter, so too will their deeply moved but legitimately anxious voters..Page 23

No compromise

Gordon Brown seems ready to concede the principle of EU tax harmonisation, provided that he can obtain an exemption for eurobonds. Such damage limitation is not good enough..Page 23

Brixton's bravery

So far, no group has claimed responsibility for Saturday's nail bomb. What is clear, though, is the courage and quick thinking of all those caught up in this dreadful incident. Brixton is a resilient place. It has had to be.........................Page23

COLUMNS

William Rees-Mogg

The unity of Nato extends only to the bombing campaign; it could not expect to be maintained if there were a ground invasion of Yugoslavia...Page 22

Peter Riddell

Devolution is strewn with potential traps and contradictions but the Government and Buckingham Palace have shrewdly avoided one of the most dangerous..................Page 22

Anna Blundy

At the end of winter the mood of your Russian lightens and he pulls all the insulation out of the gaps in the windows and starts doing what he does best, which is enjoy himself ....Page 22

OBITUARIES

Lord Cayzer, Chairman of British and Commonwealth Shipping; **Air Commodore G.J. 'Taffy' Powell**; **Sir Ian McAdam**, surgeon. Page 25

LETTERS

Opinion polls and monetary union; tragedy funds: Glyndbourne; British citizenship; teachers'pay; Trafalgar Square plinth..................Page 23

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 21,081

ACROSS

1 Church out East with extremely emotional musician (8).
6 Song about sailor in part of Asia (6).
9 Current charge for buttonhole (6).
10 Make mistake with lane turn not committed to memory (8).
11 Waterproof material crowd used in painting church (8).
12 Repressed writer has lay rejected (4-2).
13 Indefinite number covered by changes relating to punishment (5).
14 One may be held up exercising boxers (9).
17 Creature with segmented body or hard top, oddly (9).
19 Servant seen around university is northerner (5).
22 Ambiguous prophecy line accepted by old tribe (6).
23 Person who steers an apple propagator's cart? (8).
24 What should I do with this French furniture, pray? (4-4).
25 Security device installed near Windsor (6).
26 Teased for being in tatters (6).
27 Following whip-round I become reticent (8).

DOWN

2 Rise and bow (7).
3 Laggard is quiet about depleted company account (9).
4 Number one seaman gets rise in allowance (6).
5 Thoroughly ridicule comic without trial (5,3,2,5).
6 Flavouring lacking, at first, in special cooking (8).
7 It provides capital cover for some clerical workers (7).
8 George gives gold to sanctimonious crew (9).
13 Noble carrying a note on horseback in thick fog (3-6).
15 Dollar given with anger for animal fodder (9).
16 Parrot's prison has nothing on top (8).
18 Swapping one sort of stamp (7).
20 A bit of fun if I erase something that makes one (7).
21 Bizarre individual in former corps for training officers (6).

The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 21,080 will appear next Saturday. The five winners will each receive a £20 book token

Times Two Crossword, page 52

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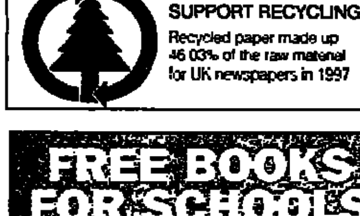
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HOURS OF DARKNESS



Sun rises: 5.57 am Sun sets: 8.03 pm

Moon sets: 12.20 am Moon rises: 8.27 am

First quarter April 22

London 8.03 pm to 5.55 am
Bristol 8.13 pm to 6.05 am
Edinburgh 8.27 pm to 5.56 am
Manchester 8.16 pm to 5.59 am
Penzance 8.22 pm to 6.20 am

FORECAST

☐ **General:** SE and N England, Midlands, E Anglia, N Wales will have sunny spells after mist clears; a few heavy showers. Hazy sun in S Wales and SW England in morning; rain later. Sunny spells, wintry showers in E Scotland. N Ireland, W Scotland sunny with showers. Tonight rain in many areas, sometimes heavy; perhaps wet snow in Pennines. Strengthening SE wind. Much of Scotland cold with frost.

☐ **London, SE, Cent S England, E Anglia, Midlands:** after early mist and low cloud clear, sunny spells, sharp showers. Light, variable wind, becoming SE. Max 12C (54F).

☐ **E, Cent N, NE England:** rather cold, sunny spells, heavy showers, perhaps wintry on hills. Light, variable winds. Max 9C (48F).

☐ **Channel Is, SW England, S Wales:** dry, sunny morning; cloudier later with rain. Freshening S to SE wind. Max 12C (54F).

☐ **N Wales, NW Eng, Lakes, IoM, N Ireld:** sunny spells, heavy showers on hills. Freshening SE breeze — feeling cold. Max 12C (54F)

☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Cent Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland:** cold; sunny spells, wintry showers. Light and variable winds. Max 8C (46F).

☐ **SW, NW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll:** early frost then sunny spells, wintry showers. Freshening SE breeze. Max 11C (52F).

☐ **Orkney, Shetland:** cold; sunny spells, wintry showers. Moderate N wind, becoming light. Max 6C (43F).

☐ **Irish Rep:** mainly dry, bright, cloud later. Rain in SW. Freshening SE wind. Max 11C (52F).

☐ **Outlook:** cold; sunny in Scotland, N England. Cloudy elsewhere; rain later.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 5 pm. b=bright, c=cloud, d=drizzle; ds=dust storm, du=dull, f=fair, fg=fog, g=gales, h=hail; r=rain, sh=shower, sl=sleet; s=sun, t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	3.9	0.01	7	45	b
Anglesey	9.8	0.05	9	48	h
Aspatria	5.6	0.01	8	46	sh
Aviemore	2.7	0.02	7	45	sh
Belfast	9.8	0.05	10	50	sh
Birmingham	4.3	0.14	9	48	sh
Bognor R	10.4	0.01	11	52	s
Bournemth	4.3	0.10	11	52	sh
Bristol	5.7	0.01	10	50	sh
Buxton	5.5	0.04	7	45	sh
Cardiff	6.4	0.06	10	50	h
Clacton	3.5	0.13	7	45	sh
Cleethorpes	7.7	0.11	10	50	s
Cromer	5.9	0.01	10	50	s
Edinburgh	1.9	0.04	7	45	sh
Eskdalemuir	0.8	0.03	7	45	sl
Exmouth	9.9	-	11	52	s
Fishguard	7.3	0.07	8	46	sh
Folkestone	5.1	0.10	9	48	sh
Glasgow	3.7	0.13	9	48	r
Guernsey	6.9	0.03	12	54	s
Hastings	10.1	0.12	11	52	s
Hayling I.	10.6	-	11	52	s
Herne Bay	5.4	0.38	11	52	sh
Hove	9.2	0.09	11	52	s
Hunstanton	4.8	-	9	48	b
Isle of Man	8.2	0.06	10	50	s
Isle of Wight	9.3	0.02	11	52	s
Jersey	6.7	0.18	11	52	r
Kinloss	9.5	-	8	46	s
Leeds	8.2	0.01	12	54	sh
Lerwick	4.5	0.01	6	43	b
Leuchars	8.2	-	8	46	s
Littlehampton	9.2	0.03	11	52	s
London	5.1	0.09	12	54	b
Lowestoft	5.2	0.10	7	45	r
Manchester	4.0	0.13	9	48	f
Margate	5.2	0.81	9	48	r
Morecambe	7.1	-	8	46	s
Newcastle	5.7	0.08	9	48	sl
Newquay	10.0	0.17	8	46	s
Norwich	3.1	0.13	8	46	sh
Oxford	7.7	0.05	11	52	h
Penzance	11.9	0.27	13	55	s
Prestatyn	6.5	0.04	10	50	sh
Ross on Wye	4.9	0.02	10	50	h
Saunton Sands	10.5	0.20	10	50	s
Scarborough	6.2	-	8	46	b
Shrewsbury	6.7	0.10	9	48	sh
Skegness	4.5	0.05	9	48	c
Southend	4.5	0.09	9	48	sh
Southport	X	-	10	50	s
Southsea	10.4	-	11	52	s
Stornoway	6.6	0.61	7	45	sh
Swanage	6.7	-	11	52	s
Teignmouth	9.7	-	11	52	s
Tenby	11.2	0.02	10	50	s
Tiree	12.7	0.01	8	46	s
Torquay	10.6	-	12	54	s
Weymouth	10.1	-	10	50	s

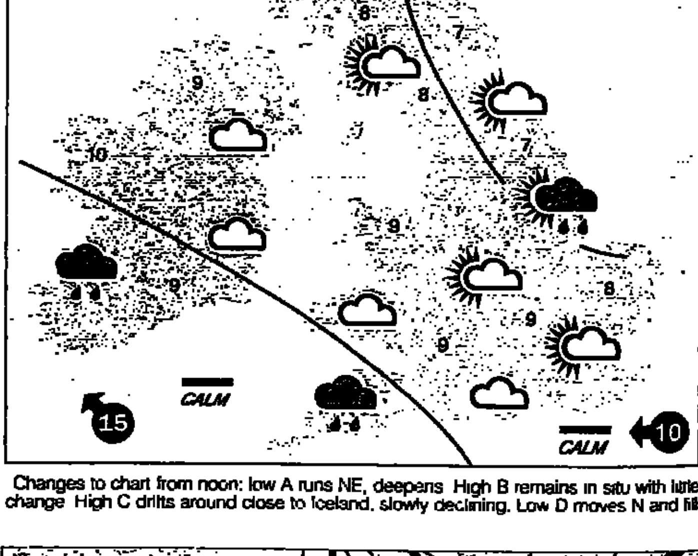
Saturday: highest day temp: Bognor Regis; 14C (57F), lowest day max: Buxton; 5C (41F), highest rainfall: Coningsby (Lincolnshire) 0.42ins, highest sunshine: Aspatria (Cumbria) 11.5 hrs

ABROAD

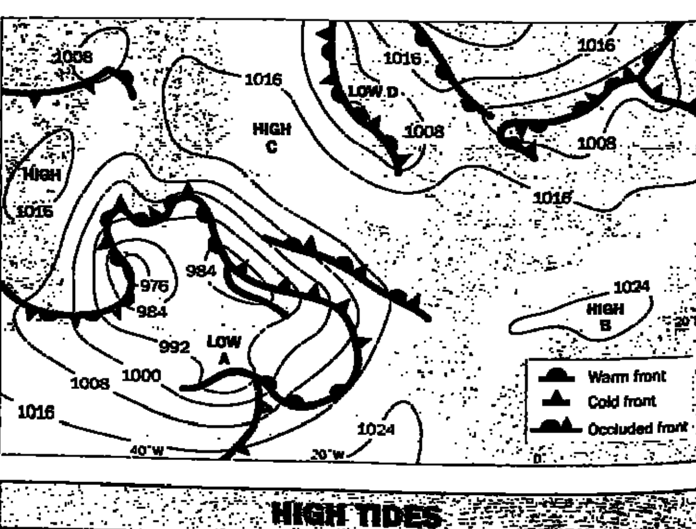
	C	F	
Ajaccio	13	55	f
Akrotiri	20	68	s
Alex'dria	25	77	s
Algiers	11	52	r
Amst'dm	9	48	c
Athens	19	66	f
Bahrain	29	84	s
Bangkok	28	82	f
Barbados	29	84	s
Barcelona	14	57	X
Beijing	22	72	s
Beirut	18	64	f
Belgrade	23	73	c
Berlin	8	46	c
Bermuda	22	72	f
Biarritz	13	55	f
Bordeaux	13	55	f
Brussels	7	45	f
Budapest	21	70	s
B Aires	14	57	c
Cairo	28	82	s
Cape Tn	19	66	s
Chicago	7	45	f
Ch'church	13	55	X
Cologne	8	46	c
C'phagn	7	45	s
Corfu	21	70	f
Dublin	7	45	f
Dubrovnik	19	66	s
Faro	14	57	c
Florence	16	61	r
Frankfurt	8	46	c
Funchal	17	63	f
Geneva	6	43	c
Gibraltar	16	61	f
Helsinki	3	37	r
Hong K	26	79	f
Innsbruck	2	36	r
Istanbul	20	68	s
Jeddah	35	95	c
Jo'burg	25	77	s
L Palmas	19	66	c
Le Tquet	9	48	f
Lisbon	12	54	f
Locarno	5	41	r
L Angeles	23	73	f
Luxembg	7	45	f
Luxor	36	97	s
Madrid	11	52	c
Majorca	15	59	f
Malaga	19	66	f
Malta	23	73	f
Melbourne	14	57	f
Mexico C	22	72	f
Miami	32	90	s
Milan	13	55	r
Montreal	12	54	s
Moscow	16	61	s
Munich	1	34	sn
Nairobi	21	70	f
Naples	18	64	f
N Delhi	33	91	s
N York	9	48	f
Nice	15	59	s
Oslo	5	41	c
Paris	8	46	c
Perth	26	79	s
Prague	4	39	r
Reykjavik	-3	27	f
Rhodes	19	66	s
Rio de J	27	81	f
Riyadh	31	88	s
Rome	15	59	d
Salzburg	4	39	r
S Frisco	17	63	s
Santiago	24	75	s
S Paulo	X		
Seoul	15	59	f
Singapore	31	88	f
Stockholm	8	46	f
Strasb'rg	8	46	f
Sydney	19	66	c
Tangier	16	61	c
Tel Aviv	23	73	s
Tenerife	20	68	f
Tokyo	18	64	s
Toronto	4	39	r
Tunis	17	63	c
Valencia	16	61	f
Vanc'ver	14	57	f
Venice	14	57	r
Vienna	7	45	r
Warsaw	16	61	r
Wash'ton	18	64	s
Wel'ngton	17	63	s
Zurich	3	37	r

Temperatures at midday local time on Friday X = not available

NOON TODAY



Changes to chart from noon: low A runs NE, deepens. High B remains in situ with little change. High C drifts around close to Iceland, slowly declining. Low D moves N and fills

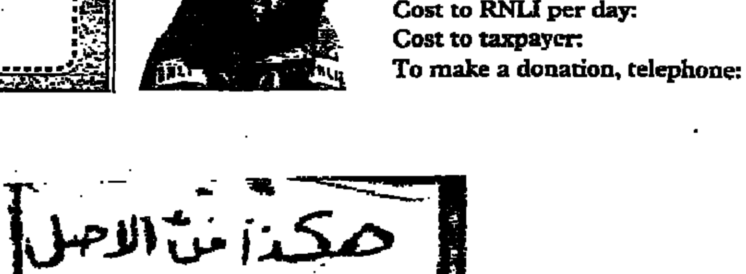


HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Aberdeen	3:15	4.3	15:35	4.4
Avonmouth	9:21	13.9	21:37	13.6
Belfast	0:50	3.5	13:14	3.6
Cardiff	9:07	12.8	21:23	12.5
Devonport	7:54	5.7	20:16	5.6
Dover	0:45	7.0	13:12	6.8
Dublin	1:18	4.2	13:43	4.4
Falmouth	7:25	5.5	19:47	5.4
Greenock	2:26	3.4	14:52	3.5
Harwich	1:42	4.3	14:08	4.2
Holyhead	0:03	5.8	12:28	5.9
Hull (Albert D)	8:17	8.9	20:36	9.1
Ilfracombe	8:07	9.7	20:24	9.5
King's Lynn	8:15	7.3	20:33	7.3
Leith	4:34	5.7	16:57	5.8
Liverpool	1:01	9.8	13:24	9.9
London Bridge	3:42	7.7	16:11	7.4
Lowestoft	11:33	2.4	23:52	2.6
Margate	1:45	5.1	14:22	4.8
Milford Haven	8:21	7.3	20:41	7.1
Newquay	7:13	7.3	19:34	7.1
Oban	7:48	4.0	19:54	3.9
Penzance	6:41	5.7	19:01	5.6
Portland	9:20	2.1	21:27	2.1
Portsmouth	1:09	4.9	13:33	4.7
Shoreham	1:06	6.6	13:25	6.4
Southampton	0:36	4.8	12:59	4.6
Swansea	8:23	12.7	20:44	12.5
Tees	5:44	10.2	18:04	10.2
Walton-On-Naze	1:33	4.5	14:00	4.3

All times GMT. Heights in metres.

RNLI RESCUE UPDATE - 19 APRIL 1999



Total number of lives saved so far this year:	71
Total number of lifeboat launches so far this year:	438
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Lifeboats

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UNDER THE SKIN OF SPORT

Push comes to shove
Leicester close in on championship
Page 34

Marathon effort
Elite runners take London in their stride
Page 29

Win double
The day Spanish golf came of age
Page 36

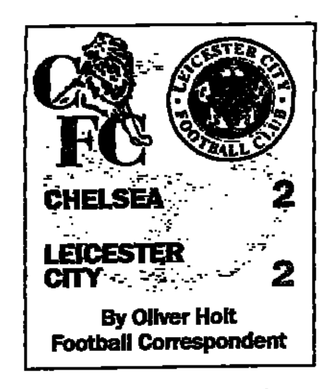
TIMES SPORT
18 PAGES
MONDAY APRIL 19 1999

VIALLI'S ERROR BRINGS DOWN CURTAIN ON TITLE CHALLENGE



Wilkins, left, the Chelsea coach, and Vialli, second left, the player-manager, can watch only in despair as a two-goal lead is thrown away after the fateful substitution of Duberry for Ferrer. Photographs: Marc Aspland

Chelsea's bubble bursts



CHELSEA 2
LEICESTER CITY 2

By Oliver Holt
Football Correspondent

THEY loaded their players with honours before the game. Ed de Goey got his from one branch of the supporters' club; Gustavo Poyet got his from another. They even gave one to Frank Sinclair, a visiting old boy, just for being there. Sadly for Chelsea, once they had started dispensing largesse yesterday, they could not stop.

For 80 minutes, they dominated Leicester City; for 80 minutes, they cruised towards a comfortable victory that would have brought them back to within a point of Manchester United at the top of the FA Carling Premiership, with everything still to play for and the pressure bearing down on the leaders.

Then, as they patted themselves on the back a bit more, Gianluca Vialli, their player-manager, made a dreadfully misjudged substitution that turned the game and, before they knew it, they had given away something far more precious than any of the trinkets that they had parted with before.

In five minutes of madness near the end of a season of toil and perseverance, Chelsea threw away a two-goal lead and, with it, their hopes of winning the title for another year. If ever a draw felt like a crushing defeat, this was it.

Their second draw in five days left them three points behind United, but Alex Ferguson's side have a game in hand. For Chelsea to win the championship now, United would probably have to lose two of their last six games when they have only lost three of their previous 32. It is between United and Arsenal now.

Vialli, perhaps missing the influence of the jailed Graham Rix, looked utterly despairing, his face set like stone as he disappeared down the Stamford Bridge tunnel after the final whistle. He would not speak to the media, but Graeme Le Saux gave a hint of the atmosphere in the dressing-room. "Do not try to interview Luca under any circumstances," the defender said with a wry smile.

Vialli does not attend press conferences any more anyway, but Ray Wilkins, Rix's successor as first-team coach, admitted that the championship had probably slipped out of reach. "That makes it very difficult for us now," Wilkins said. "We have got five games left and we have got to win them all to stand any chance of winning the title. Then we just have to hope the others slip up."

Their challenge appears to have foundered, ultimately, on their failure to replace Pierluigi Casiraghi, injured early in the season, with a goalscorer of a similar calibre, someone who could have finished Leicester off yesterday when they were at Chelsea's mercy.

They had eased their way into the lead in the thirtieth minute, when Gianfranco Zola lobbed the ball over Keller after a fine pass from Jody Morris and an even finer one from Roberto Di Matteo had carved open the Leicester defence. They nearly went farther ahead ten minutes after half-time, but Keller somehow managed to claw a diving header from Dennis Wise off the line when it seemed that it was impossible to keep it out.



Guppy strikes the late equaliser at Stamford Bridge yesterday that may have ended Chelsea's challenge

They did extend their lead midway through the second half. Di Matteo was the provider once more. His pass freed Dan Petrescu on the right and when his chip over Keller bounced off the post, Matt Elliott could only turn it into his own net. Demoralised and outplayed, Leicester should not have been allowed any way back.

Instead, Tore Andre Flo wasted two good headed chances to go with the one that Zola spurned in the goalless draw away to Middlesbrough in midweek and then Vialli's decision to replace Albert Ferrer with Michael Duberry in the 74th minute changed the course of this game.

Ferrer had had a faultless afternoon and even though Chelsea were nervous about the aerial threat that Leicester had added to their attack by bringing on Ian Marshall and pushing Elliott up front, removing Ferrer seemed to be a needlessly risky strategy.

Suddenly, Emile Heskey, who had hardly been given a kick by Ferrer, was embarrassing Duberry with his pace and strength. Duberry, flung into the midst of what had suddenly become a desperate rearguard action, could not deal with that or with the long-ball bombardment that followed.

"When they went route one-ish, we did not cope with that very well at all," Wilkins said. "We should have been three or four up by then, but we started to defend too deep and caused ourselves all sorts of problems. I don't know why the defence did that. You will have to ask them."

Leicester dragged themselves *back into the match* eight minutes from the end when Andrew Impey's hopeful ball to the back post was hooked back across the face of the goal by Elliott, bounced off Duberry's shin and rolled into the net. Chelsea were reeling. Marcel Desailly made a desperate saving tackle on Cottee. De Goey pushed out Marshall's close-range header and Leboeuf blocked a shot from Cottee with his stomach.

They could not cling on. Two minutes were left when Guppy, who *had also been* shackled by the attentions of Ferrer, wriggled past Petrescu, drifted in from the left and curled his right-foot shot past the forlorn dive of De Goey.

Martin O'Neill leapt from the dugout in elation, punching the air. "We were supposed to be here to make up the numbers," the Leicester manager said. "We were supposed to be an inferior side, but we have just destroyed everybody's idea of what this *game would be.*

"I have just been asked if Chelsea took their foot off the pedal, but no one takes their foot off the pedal when they are going for the championship, no one. I'm sure Alex Ferguson and Arsène Wenger will be delighted with what has happened here today."

CHELSEA (3-5-2): E de Goey — A Ferrer (sub: M Duberry, 73min), F Leboeuf, M Desailly — D Petrescu, R Di Matteo, J Morris (sub: G Poyet, 70), D Wise, B Goldbaek (sub: G Le Saux, 46) — T A Flo, G Zola.

LEICESTER CITY (3-6-2): K Keller — F Sinclair, M Elliott, R Ullathorne (sub: P Kaamark, 33) — A Impey, R Savage, N Lennon, A Gunnlaugsson (sub: I Marshall, 70), S Guppy — A Cottee, E Heskey

Referee: M Reed

MANCHESTER UNITED

P 32 W 19 D 10 L 3 F 72 A 32 Pts 67

April 25	Leeds United (a)
May 1	Aston Villa (h)
May 5	Liverpool (a)
May 8	Middlesbrough (a)
May 16	Tottenham Hotspur (h)

CHELSEA

P 33 W 17 D 13 L 3 F 49 A 26 Pts 64

April 24	Sheffield Wednesday (a)
May 1	Everton (h)
May 8	Tottenham Hotspur (a)
May 16	Derby County (h)

ARSENAL

P 32 W 17 D 12 L 3 F 43 A 13 Pts 63

Today	Wimbledon (h)
April 24	Middlesbrough (a)
May 1	Derby County (h)
May 8	Leeds United (a)
May 16	Aston Villa (h)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Man Utd	32	19	10	3	72	32	67
Chelsea	33	17	13	3	49	26	64
Arsenal	32	17	12	3	43	13	63
Leeds	33	16	11	6	53	29	59
Aston Villa	34	14	10	10	45	39	52
West Ham	34	14	9	11	39	41	51
Middlesbrough	34	12	14	8	46	42	50
Derby	33	12	11	10	37	41	47
Liverpool	32	12	8	12	57	42	44
Tottenham	32	10	13	9	36	37	43
Newcastle	33	11	9	13	44	48	42
Wimbledon	33	10	11	12	37	50	41
Leicester	32	9	13	10	34	41	40
Sheff Wed	33	11	5	17	38	39	38
Everton	34	9	10	15	31	41	37
Coventry	34	10	7	17	35	47	37
Charlton	33	7	11	15	35	44	32
Blackburn	33	7	11	15	35	46	32
Southampton	34	8	7	19	31	63	31
Nottm Forest	34	4	9	21	30	66	21

MOTOR SPORT

Fogarty concedes ground to Corser

By Our Sports Staff

CARL FOGARTY saw his world superbike championship lead cut to just four points after twice coming second in the second round at Phillip Island in Australia. The three-time world champion battled back from poor starts in both races, but could not match Troy Corser, his Ducati team-mate.

Corser, who had claimed pole position with a course record, delighted his home crowd by picking up maximum points with two superb victories. The world champion in 1996, Corser had finished second and third behind Fogarty in the first round at Kyalami in South Africa, but the Briton could not add to his career-tally of 50 wins this time.

Fogarty collected 40 points to reach 90 for the season, with Corser on 86 after his 50-point haul in Australia. The action moves to Donington for the British Grand Prix in round three on May 2, with Fogarty glad to be leading the table.

"The start proved to be the focal point for the whole of the first race," Fogarty said. "I could see Troy getting away and had to put a lot of effort into getting back into second place."

The second race was far closer, with Fogarty tracking his great rival from the ninth lap onwards and hitting the front on lap 16 of 22. However, he had put too much pressure on his tyres in the early exchanges and Corser bided his time before reclaiming the advantage on the final circuit.

A mistake with two turns to go let Fogarty in again, but the Australian had just enough left in him to sneak back up on the line. Colin Edwards, of the United States, claimed his first podium finishes of the year when taking third in both events on his Honda.

Kenny Roberts Jr won his first 500cc race when he triumphed at the Malaysian Grand Prix on Sunday, beating Carlos Checa and Alex Criville, both of Spain, who finished second and third.

Roberts, the Suzuki Rider, and the namesake son of Kenny Roberts, three times the 500cc world champion, won in 44min 56.033sec after starting from third place on the grid. Checa, on a Yamaha, finished 4.3sec behind the American.

Criville, riding a Honda, was 4.8sec behind the winner. John Kocinski, another American, started in pole position, but his race ended on the fourth lap, when he and Norifumi Abe, of Japan, crashed.

Loris Capirossi, of Italy, the world champion, won the 250cc Malaysian Grand Prix on Sunday, after overtaking Tohru Ukawa, of Japan, on the last lap.

RUGBY LEAGUE: LEADERS STRUGGLE BEFORE MAINTAINING 100 PER CENT RECORD AGAINST SHEFFIELD'S STEEL

St Helens spinning on table top

St Helens........................39
Sheffield Eagles...............30

By Christopher Irvine

IF ELLERY HANLEY had hair to tear out, it would have come away in clumps. The St Helens coach is not one for emotional responses, but his side put him and a crowd of 9,000 at Knowsley Road through the wringer yesterday before maintaining their 100 per cent record, two points clear at the top of the JJB Super League.

Hanley was brief and to the point: "I'd like to apologise on behalf of the players for that lacklustre performance. There was very little quality. We were lucky to scrape two points. Our one-on-one defence was bad from the first minute to the last."

St Helens were assisted by a 15-6 penalty count. John Kear, the Sheffield Eagles coach, stopped short of directly critcising Karl Kirkpatrick, the referee, but said: "It was ridiculous. I'll be glad to see Greg McCallum [the referees' director] back from Australia. Nobody can beat St Helens with the little ball we had in the second half."

In all of their six league wins, St Helens have come from behind. When Sheffield opened the scoring through Powell's try on the right after nine minutes, the home side went into overdrive, with an unanswered burst of 20 points, before conceding two quick, converted tries by Sodje and Hardy and a penalty from halfway by Aston, after Long's dreadful restart, in the five minutes before the break.

The place-kicking of Long, who landed seven goals, settled St Helens, whose complacency then threatened them again as Sheffield rallied once more towards the finish. "We let ourselves down. There's a lot of hard work to do," Hanley said.

After three successive victories, the Eagles had their tail feathers up. Jeff Hardy moved out of the pack and had a magnificent game opposite Aston at half back. The Sheffield forwards never stopped working, but with penalties running so comprehensivly against them, a late runaway try by Turner and three further Aston goals were insufficient.

For the 20 minutes after Powell's opening try, St Helens did as they pleased. They imagined that they were strolling to victory when Long initiated the first try by Kevin Iro after the referee played advantage. Tacklers failed to pull Iro down a second time and the strapping New Zealand centre brought Atcheson, whose performance was the only outstanding one, on to the ball for Paul Wellens to brush off a poor challenge by Lovell beneath the posts.

The game looked to be running away from Sheffield when Iro tore downfield and the defence melted. Why he opted to throw a pass when scoring looked easier was anyone's guess, but the ball was whipped out to the left and Keiron Cunningham found a big gap from acting half back. Room opened up for Sonny Nickle to add a fourth try.

Missed tackles by Iro and Cunningham led to Sheffield scores when Sodje and Hardy supported clean breaks. Whatever Hanley said at half-time did not work immediately. Long and Aston exchanged two penalties each, before the eventual breakthrough for St Helens, by Stewart.

SCORERS: St Helens: Tries: Iro, Wellens, Cunningham, Nickle, Stewart, Perelini **Goals:** Long 7 **Dropped goal:** Wellens. **Sheffield Eagles: Tries:** Powell, Sodje, Hardy, Turner **Goals:** Aston 7
ST HELENS: P Atcheson; F Tuilagi, K Iro, A Stewart, A Sullivan, T Martyn, S Long; J O'Neill, K Cunningham, S Nickle, C Joynt, A Perelini, P Sculthorpe. Substitutes: C Smith, T Jonkers, V Matautia, P Wellens.
SHEFFIELD EAGLES: D Watson; K Lovell, D Powell, K Senior, B Sodje; J Hardy, M Aston; D Laughton, J Lawless, D Shaw, S Baldwin, D Turner, R Doyle. Substitutes: M Pearson, W Sovatabua, M Jackson, P Anderson
Referee: K Kirkpatrick (Warrington).



Tuilagi, the St Helens wing, crashes through the tackles of Laughton, left, and Lawless during an unimpressive defeat of Sheffield yesterday



Long attempts to break clear of the Sheffield defence

Hughes tames Broncos

Wakefield Trinity Wildcats..40
London Broncos.................8

By A Correspondent

UNLESS London Broncos can beat, or at worst draw, with Warrington Wolves at The Stoop on Saturday, they will go into the Silk Cup Challenge Cup final against Leeds Rhinos on the back of four JJB Super League defeats. Yesterday they were trounced by seven tries to one on their trip to Wakefield Trinity Wildcats at Belle Vue.

Three first-half tries from Adam Hughes, the Wakefield centre, in an inspired 21-minute spell totally undermined the Broncos' resolve. Hughes went on to embellish his performance with some excellent goalkicking to finish with 24 points. London badly missed the guiding hand of Shaun Edwards. Threatening individual sorties by Peters and Ryan never seemed likely to achieve the success of Wakefield's collective effort in which Tomlinson's skill, Law's pace and the forward power of March and Poching gave them a massive advantage.

Not that Wakefield began too convincingly. They were behind to a Tollett penalty after two minutes and it was against the run of play that Tomlinson conjured up the opening try for Hughes. A superb diagonal run earned him his second and Law made the third after Tollett had scored the sole try for the Broncos.

This vulnerability down the left side continued to prove an Achilles's heel for the Broncos, although it was from a full frontal assault that Poching joined Hughes on the scoring list.

Disorganisation led to indiscipline in the London ranks and when Hammond was sent to the sin-bin, Wakefield took full advantage to add further tries through Kenward and McDonald. Stott added number seven after Offiah, who had a wretched game, failed to deal with a kick from Tomlinson.

SCORERS: Wakefield Trinity Wildcats: Tries: Hughes 3, Poching, Kenward, McDonald, Stott. **Goals:** Hughes 6 **London Broncos: Try:** Tollett **Goals:** Tollett 2

WAKEFIELD TRINITY WILDCATS: A Hodgson; L Stott, S Kenward, A Hughes, N Law; T Kemp, G Tomlinson; F Stephenson, D March, S Walene, G Price, S Richardson, W Poching. **Substitutes:** P March, W McDonald, J Field, P Jackson

LONDON BRONCOS: T Tollett; D Peters, C Ryan, G Fleming, M Offiah; K Hammond, G Air; T Setoold, R Beazley, S Retchless, S Millard, R Simpson, P Gill. **Substitutes:** D Calloway, M Soller, M Toshack, S Hughes
Referee: S Ganson (St. Helens)

Bulls come to the Boyle

Warrington Wolves............14
Bradford Bulls....................22

By Peter Wilson

BRADFORD BULLS' target is to regain the JJB Super League championship. Warrington's aims are not quite so high and, on this evidence, neither is far off course. Bradford showed that they have the strength to challenge for the top honour and Warrington that they have the spirit to upset many of the leading lights.

The muddy conditions meant that the game was always going to be a hard slog that would be decided more by errors than tries, so it was no surprise that the result hinged on a mistake. The teams were level at 14-14 when Warrington spilled possession in front of their own posts and Bradford mounted the attack that brought the decisive try.

It came ten minutes from the end of a contest that Bradford should have won long before then. Instead, they were denied by some solid Warrington defence, particularly in the first half, which ended with the teams level at 8-8.

James Lows, the Bradford hooker, supplied the opening for the first try, scored by Stuart Spruce after five minutes, and, when Michael Withers crossed in the corner on 24 minutes, it appeared to be only a matter of time before Warrington collapsed. Instead, they stunned Bradford with a try by Lee Penny on the stroke of half-time and Warrington were all square.

A defensive error by Warrington, when they failed to deal with Henry Paul's clever kick ahead early in the second half, enabled Scott Naylor to score the Bulls' third try, only for Warrington to come back strongly, Mark Forster taking advantage of some slack work in the Bradford defence.

It looked as though that would be enough to earn Warrington a point, but that late error by the home team allowed Lows to set up David Boyle for the winning try.

SCORERS: Warrington Wolves: Tries: Penny, Forster **Goal:** Briers (3). **Bradford Bulls: Tries:** Spruce, Withers, Naylor, Boyle **Goals:** H Paul (3)

WARRINGTON WOLVES: L Penny, J Roach, T Kohe-Love, A Hunte, M Forster, J Duffy, L Briers, M Hilton, D Farrar, G Chambers, S Gilies, I Knott, M Wainwright
Subs A Leatham, D Busby, D Hanger, and S McCurrie

BRADFORD BULLS: S Spruce, T Vaikona, S Naylor, D Peacock, M Withers, H Paul, R Paul, B McDermott, J Lowes, P Anderson, D Boyle, B Dwyer, M Forshaw
Subs W Jowett, P Deacon, L Pryce, and S Fielden
Referee: S Presley (Castleford)

BASKETBALL

Newcastle stuck on the road to nowhere

By Nicholas Harling

NEWCASTLE Eagles may well have to change their travel arrangements if ever they are to make a realistic attempt to reach Wembley. The squad defeated 87-68 by London Towers on Saturday was the same as that beaten 91-76 only 48 hours earlier at the same Crystal Palace venue.

In between the last two legs of their Budweiser Championship quarter-final play-off, the Eagles had made the long journey back to the North East. Barely had the players got to bed in the small hours of Friday than they were embarking on the 800-mile round trip again.

"It's crazy, isn't it," Craig Lynch, the coach, said. "It's unfortunate to have two quick games like this but money is always a factor in this league. However the game was important enough for us not to use tiredness as an excuse."

Fatigue had not looked a problem early on in the decisive final game when the Eagles hit the first eleven points and moved serenely into a 26-8 advantage.

Only then did they succumb once more to the accuracy of Randy Duck. The American, the latest acquisition for the Towers who have now reached Wembley three years running at Newcastle's expense, collected 24 points in both the Palace games. Martin Henlam also scored 20 points on Saturday. By half-time, when they led 43-38, the Towers had taken complete control and thereafter they encountered few problems.

It was a similar story in the Nynex Arena where Manchester Giants knocked out Birmingham Bullets, the holders, 90-77, in their decisive third leg. The Bullets would have been happier with their earlier 13-5 lead had Reggie Kirk not already accumulated three fouls.

Kirk finished with 18 points, one more than Nigel Lloyd, but in Tony Dorsey, the scorer of 30 points, the Giants had the overwhelming match winner. The Bullets hardly needed reminding that Dorsey was the man voted most valuable player when they lifted the Trophy last May.

Manchester's Wembley opponents will be Thames Valley Tigers, runners-up last year. In the other semi-final the Towers will meet Sheffield Sharks who stayed on course for a remarkable treble by winning their third leg 75-68 against Greater London Leopards on Friday to leave the capital club, league champions for the past two seasons, without any silverware this time.

Terrell Myers made the vital contribution for the Sharks with 25 points, of which 13 came in the final quarter, to douse a Leopards' post-interval rally.

SQUASH

Jackman cruises into semi-finals

By Colin McQuillan

CASSANDRA JACKMAN'S chances of adding the WISPA Grand Prix finals title to the British national championships that she won in January took a noticeable upturn in Hurghada, Egypt, over the weekend.

First, Sarah Fitz-Gerald, the world champion, broke down with knee problems, then Michelle Martin, the world No 1, lost unexpectedly in the last round of the qualifying competition.

The two leading Australians were seeded to meet in the final today, but Fitz-Gerald's tearful withdrawal on Friday night gave Jackman, the No 3 seed, an easy passage to the semi-finals from group B, along with the rapidly-improving Natalie Grainger, of South Africa.

Martin, who is the Grand Prix champion, also made it into the semi-finals, but only as the second-placed player from group A after losing 9-3, 8-10, 9-4, 9-6 in 37 minutes to Carol Owens, her compatriot and a player to whom she had not previously lost.

Owens, 27, from Melbourne, ranked No 9 in the world, has found an agreeable environment for her fast, adventurous style on the open-air court that has been mounted for evening play on the Red Sea beachfront of the Marriott Hotel. "I seem to move easily and my shots fire in tightly on this court," Owens said, after heading group A with an undefeated record.

Jackman was similarly undefeated in group B, but while Owens was achieving her lifetime best victory in group A, the 26-year-old from Norfolk was cruising through a group B exhibition match against Maha Zein, a local reserve, not realising until later that she would be going on to meet the world No 1 in the semi-finals.

"I must admit I had been thinking it would be Carol in my semi-final and then one of the top Australians in the final, but I am quite happy to play Michelle if she can maintain the mood in which she lost to Carol," Jackman said.

In fact, there could be a distinct physical advantage in Jackman's main match of the tournament being brought forward 24 hours in a crowded five-day schedule, plus, perhaps, a psychological help in meeting Martin the day after the world No I had been unexpectedly overturned by her fellow Australian.

"Of course, she might just come out looking for blood," Jackman said, "but I was quite close to her the last time we played, in the Citroën Classic final in Germany, and she was in more confident style then. A semi-final can sometimes be less stressful than a final."

Flintstone's form favours Powell for Badminton

EQUESTRIANISM

By Jenny MacArthur

RODNEY POWELL, the winner of Badminton in 1991, underlined his form for the event this year when he and Marguerite Boucher's Flintstone relegated Blyth Tait and Ready Teddy, the world and Olympic three-day event champions, to second place in the Master Class section of the Pedigree Chum Belton Horse Trials in Lincolnshire yesterday.

Powell, who has had several lean years since his win on The Irishman — he broke his hip in a fall at Gatcombe and lost two of his advanced horses last year — had a foot-perfect cross-country round to finish one point ahead of Tait. Owen Moore and Lady Kelveston's Gildernstein confirmed their form with a confident round to finish in third place. Powell is now hoping his luck will hold for Badminton.

Flintstone had a superb season as an eight-year-old, when he finished fifth at Saumur, but did not compete again until this spring. After receiving his £1,000 prizemoney, Powell was reluctant to give the reasons why, but said: "Let's just say he's taken two years to mature."

Tait's luck with Ready Teddy has also changed. After a few mishaps the 11-year-old gelding put in a solid performance in each of the three phases. "It'll have done him a world of good," Tait said. "It was a big, stiff course and just what he needed." For good measure Tait also won section K on Sam Barr's Welton Envoy and was third in section L on Chesterfield.

The Keyhole fence near the end of the course proved too stiff for some of the Badminton contenders, including Peta Beckett and Watermark.

Bettina Overesch-Boker, of Germany, on Watermill Stream, were comfortable winners of section M, three points ahead of Pippa Funnell on Rainbow Magic. Mark Todd was pleased with his Badminton contenders — Word For Word and Broadcast News. "I'm feeling very positive about Badminton," he said.

All-England crown for Pulling

BOWLS

By David Rhys Jones

MARTIN PULLING, who will be 40 in June, has become the oldest man to win the English indoor singles championship since Andy Ross in 1984. Pulling, from Grantham, returned a 21-17 scorecard against Simon Skelton, of Scunthorpe, in the final at Melton Mowbray.

An emotional Pulling, whose previous best result was losing in the pairs final in 1996, said: "Two weeks ago, I thought I would have to drop out because I could not move my neck, but I have been visiting an osteopath and got fit just in time."

Pulling led 6-0, but faded as Skelton powered into a 15-9 lead on medium length jacks. "I had a chance of taking a three to go 18-9 ahead, but just missed, and Martin put me on long jacks, which I couldn't find as well," Skelton said.

Stephen Collingham, the talented teenager who upstaged Tony Allcock, the world outdoor singles champion, and John Evans, met his match in Skelton in the quarter-finals. Collingham led 8-1 after eight ends and then forged into a 20-16 lead before Skelton saved game with a perfect draw, collected three shots with a magical take-out and claimed the winning single on the 29th end.

In the semi-finals, Skelton defeated Robert Newman, from the Whiteknights club in Reading, 21-17, while Pulling scored 18 shots without reply as he came back from 3-9 to beat Stuart Thomas, of Leicester, 21-9.

Jack Coupland, who will be 85 in June, was in the Leicester team that beat Carlton, 39-34, in the final of the inter-club over-60 championship.

London Marathon: Moroccan outsider outwits world's finest to claim impressive victory



El Mouaziz, signed up only as a reserve, was allowed the time for an elaborate celebration by a strong field of runners that paid the price for worrying too much about each other

El Mouaziz proves too clever

BY DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

THE Flora London Marathon spent a record $1.5 million (about £950,000) investing in the finest field assembled for a men's competition, but the collective racing brain of the world's most accomplished distance runners was outwitted yesterday by an athlete signed up as a reserve. Abdelkader El Mouaziz, from Morocco, completed the first African double in the 19-year history of the event after Joyce Chepchumba, from Kenya, had won the women's race.

El Mouaziz was a 16-1 outsider in a field that included Ronaldo da Costa, the world record-holder from Brazil, Josiah Thugwane, the Olympic champion from South Africa, and Abel Anton, the world champion from Spain. Though he had finished second last year, he was not invited this time until the drop-outs began. The field was that strong, London — or so it thought — could be run without him.

When El Mouaziz followed similar tactics to those that he employed last April, building up a lead from the main group, few imagined he would still be in front come the finish line. In the 1998 race, Anton came past him 300 metres from the finish and the Moroccan had to settle for finishing as runner-up. By halfway the pacemakers, Thugwane and El Mouaziz were some 90 seconds ahead of the main group.

By 15 miles, with the last of the pacemakers now departed, El Mouaziz was out on his own. Richard Nerurkar, Britain's fastest marathon runner of recent times, commentating for BBC Television, was among those fooled. "I think that El Mouaziz is committing suicide," Nerurkar said at 16 miles, with the Moroccan more than two minutes clear.

El Mouaziz passed 20 miles within a minute of world-record schedule and, by the 21st mile, with the leader still way out ahead, Nerurkar had changed his tune. "I do not think they are going to catch him," Nerurkar said. This time he was right.

Soon the luminaries following began to realise it, too. At 23 miles, El Mouaziz still led by more than two minutes. Antonio Pinto, twice the London Marathon champion, was the only one to retrieve an apparently lost cause. He set off in pursuit but still finished more than a minute behind.

Had El Mouaziz concentrated on pushing it to the line he would have taken the $25,000 for a course record, but, just as Anton paid the price last year for a similar celebration, the winner yesterday fell two seconds short of Pinto's course best. El Mouziz's time was identical to Anton's winning run last year, 2hr 7min 57sec.

Pinto was second in 2hr 9min and Anton third in 2hr 9min 41sec Anton outsprinted Jon Brown, Great Britain's first finisher, who came fourth in a career-best 2hr 9min 44sec. Pinto and Anton admitted they had been too busy watching the top names in the field, assuming that they would work their way back, to worry about those out ahead.

"The runners are to blame," Pinto said. "All the top athletes were there looking at each other. Some runners took a risk and most of us did not." Anton added: "He took the risk and congratulations to him. We did not realise the winner was going to be so strong."

Neither attempted to blame either the pacemakers or the lack of information from race officials telling them how far El Mouaziz was ahead. Anton suggested that he did not realise El Mouaziz was among the athletes who had gone off with the pacemakers.

"I looked around and saw all the other top athletes and thought nobody in front was one of the favourites, so we took it easy," he said.

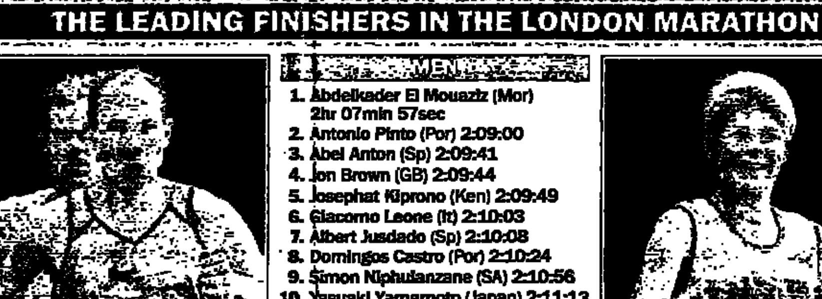
El Mouaziz, explaining his decision to break away earlier than last year, said: "I am not as strong in the finish as Anton or Pinto. They are good track runners, over 5,000 and 10,000 metres, and I am not. If I am with them at the finish I am going to lose."

Brown was cautious over whether his run yesterday should prompt him to concentrate on the marathon for the Olympic Games next year. The British record-holder for 10,000 metres, he may stick with that distance. He said: "It has given me something to be more optimistic about."

Da Costa proved small value for his $250,000 appearance fee. He finished seventeenth, behind Tekeye Gebrselassie, the brother of Haile, the multi-world record-holder, who was thirteenth.

Eamonn Martin, the 1993 winner, missed in his attempt to break Ron Hill's British veterans record, finishing almost two minutes outside with 2hr 17min 22sec.

THE LEADING FINISHERS IN THE LONDON MARATHON



Brown: unable to hold off Anton's challenge

MEN

1. Abdelkader El Mouaziz (Mor) 2hr 07min 57sec
2. Antonio Pinto (Por) 2:09:00
3. Abel Anton (Sp) 2:09:41
4. Jon Brown (GB) 2:09:44
5. Josephat Kiprono (Ken) 2:09:49
6. Giacomo Leone (It) 2:10:03
7. Albert Jusdado (Sp) 2:10:08
8. Domingos Castro (Por) 2:10:24
9. Simon Niphulanzane (SA) 2:10:56
10. Yasuaki Yamamoto (Japan) 2:11:13

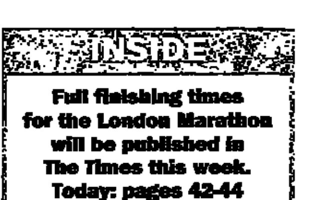
WOMEN

1. Joyce Chepchumba (Ken) 2:23:22
2. Adriana Fernandez (Mex) 2:24:06
3. Manuela Machado (Por) 2:25:09
4. Nicole Carroll (Aus) 2:25:52
5. Elana Meyer (SA) 2:27:18
6. Taeko Terauchi (Japan) 2:28:31
7. Kerryn McCann (Aus) 2:28:44
8. Angeline Kanana (Ken) 2:29:47
9. Viviany De Oliveira (Br) 2:32:17
10. Guadalupe Loma (Mex) 2:36:42

TOP BRITISH RUNNER

14. Nicola Scales 2:44:28

Scales: well behind leading women



Full finishing times for the London Marathon will be published in The Times this week.
Today: pages 42-44

First step on ladder for future stars

John Goodbody on the progress of Britain's young hopefuls

Just as the world's elite distance runners began their long trek at Greenwich, the prospective champions of the future started sprinting along Lower Thames Street in *The Times* Mini Marathon.

A record field of 2,124 youngsters from the 33 London boroughs, along with runners from 15 cities across Great Britain, took part in the 2.8-mile race that finished in The Mall.

For many of the youngsters competing in the 15 different events, including the wheelchair races, it was their first chance to sample the delights of high-class competition, a moment to inspire them to continue in athletics.

For others, such as Mohamed Farah, of Feltham School in Hounslow, it was another victory in a glowing series of teenage successes. Six weeks ago, he was the outstanding winner in the mud, sleet and gales of the English schools cross country championships over the hills above Luton.

Yesterday, in the more benign, although chilly conditions, of a windless morning on the flat roads of the capital, the 16-year-old demonstrated the same dominance, speeding home to finish first in the 15-17 category for London boys. He recorded a time of exactly 14min, 18sec clear of Richard Ward, of Sutton.

"I was shivering a bit at the start, but this was a sprint for me," Farah said. It was his third successive victory in the event.

Two weeks ago, he was training in the sun of Florida during the British Olympic Association's training camp for young hopefuls. "I learnt a lot from the experience and from all the famous people who had competed in the Games."

Another potential star is Chris Reynolds, 14, from Bancroft's School, in Woodford, who won the London Boroughs race for boys aged 13 and 14. He finished in 14min 14sec, 8sec ahead of Carl Chaney, of Kingston.

Principally a 1,500-metres runner, having finished fourth in the English schools championships last year, he says that if he is not going to win a race, he would prefer not to run — "but if you don't run, then you are never going to win".

Reynolds was tense at the start, despite having won the race last year. "I found it difficult to relax, but I felt full of running when I went into Parliament Square and took over the lead. Then I heard my mum shouting at the start of The Mall — I always hear her cheering in my races — and that gave me another lift to produce a sprint finish."

Among the girls, Jo Ankier, of Henrietta Barnett School, was hugely impressive in finishing first in the London girls 15-17 category, 18sec clear of Jill Christie, of Hillingdon, in 15min 41sec.

In the wheelchair races, Dwayne Cooke, 16, of St Rose's School in Stroud, Gloucestershire, was first in the 14-17 class. "I like the adrenalin of athletics," Cooke said.

He competes also in the field events, but said: "I'm mainly track. My throwing is not too good. It is like water and electricity — they don't mix too well."

Results, page 43



After the race is run: a competitor takes refreshment after completing *The Times* Mini Marathon

Dale hits the jackpot by cashing in Bond

Drago criticised the game's ruling body after his match



By Phil Yates

DOMINIC DALE was eliminated from the *Embassy* world championship when he lost 10-6 to Nigel Bond at The Crucible Theatre, Sheffield, yesterday, but not before he had earned a mention in snooker's record books.

Dale's white suit, matching shoes and tangerine shirt, which he wore during the first session on Saturday, probably represented the most unconventional outfit ever seen at the Crucible, but his total of 167 points in winning the fifteenth frame stands unquestionably as the highest aggregate in a single frame of any professional tournament, let alone the world championship.

Trailing 8-1 after the opening session, Dale, much more soberly dressed in black suit and royal blue shirt, fought back to only 9-5 adrift. He potted the initial red in the fifteenth frame and placed an increasingly-nervous Bond in a snooker behind the yellow.

Although escape was straightforward, doing so without leaving Dale a scoring opportunity was not. Bond made 11 abortive attempts to caress the cue ball into the pack, each time being called for a "miss" before he finally achieved contact.

With 44 penalty points already to his credit, Dale forced a break-building chance from the ensuing safety exchange, which he exploited with a clearance of 122. One frame later, though, a relieved Bond was safely through.

"I must admit that thoughts of being given a taste of my own medicine did cross my mind on more than one occasion. I was made to sweat," Bond, who transformed a seemingly hopeless 9-2 deficit into a 10-9 victory over Cliff Thorburn at the corresponding stage in 1994, said. Bond, beaten by Stephen Hendry in the 1995 final, now looks set to play Ken Doherty, the champion two years ago, in the last 16. Doherty sat out a clearance of 137 from Steve James, but still led 8-1 overnight.

Tony Drago, of Malta, was in a mood for confrontation rather than celebration on completing a 10-4 win over Fergal O'Brien, the Dubliner who triumphed unexpectedly at the British Open last week.

On a day when it was reported that a group of leading players could boycott a world ranking event proposed for Bangalore, India, next season, Drago criticised the overseas planning of the World Professional Billards and Snooker Association (WPBSA), the game's governing body.

Drago, who is afraid of flying, described the WPBSA's organisation of accommodation at the Thailand Masters last month as "disgraceful", and, having failed to negotiate his first match in both the Thailand Masters and China International, he is adamant that he will not undertake such long-haul trips in the future.

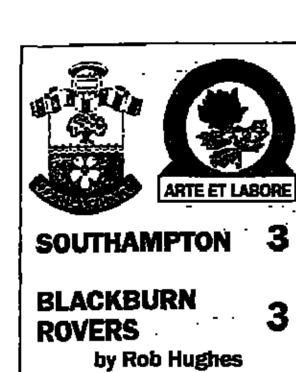
Anthony Hamilton, O'Brien's victim in the final of the British Open, became the first member of the world's top 16 to perish when he was edged out 10-9 on the black by Chris Small, whose methodical style is unattractive but effective.

Hamilton compiled a pair of century breaks in the early stages but missed a series of crucial pots in tight corners, most notably the blue, while employing the rest in the deciding frame, which would have left Small requiring a snooker.

Even though the marathon encounter dragged on for seven hours, 57 minutes, Jimmy White was an interested spectator. Had Hamilton prevailed, White's hopes of regaining his status among the elite top 16 next season would have improved.

FA Carling Premiership: Southampton's fightback brings minimal reward

Jones and Kidd dwell on point of no return



SOUTHAMPTON 3
BLACKBURN ROVERS 3
by Rob Hughes

HALF-TIME at The Dell was illuminated with the scoreboard sign: "The Samaritans 24 hours a day". David Jones, the Southampton manager, was too preoccupied to make the call. He rearranged his defence, his midfield and his attack, replacing tired experience with spirited youth. "Whatever we do," he said, "we mustn't give away a third goal."

Another unheeded message. Two minutes into the second half, Blackburn took what surely would be a decisive 3-1 lead — but not for nothing have Southampton survived 21 seasons in England's top flight. When the spring blossoms, they summon the will to stay in the fight and, while the sun shone on Saturday, it rained goals.

The threat of relegation, though, still hangs over these teams. Blackburn, backed by millions but racked by injuries, struggled to hold on to a point after Mark Hughes scored his first goal in 32 games for Southampton and Marian Pahars scored within minutes of making his home debut as a substitute.

The draw, which neither side could afford, was fair. Six goals conveys the adventure — sometimes the misadventure — of the afternoon, yet defences this flawed might have been breached twice as many times, so their insecurity will not abate.

"We are in a pressure business," Brian Kidd, the Blackburn manager, a friend and now adversary of Jones, said. One, or possibly both, of them is going to go down and, unless the perverse happens and Southampton begin to replicate the courage to run and the ability to score away from The Dell, it will sadly be that club.

This would draw a line south of London on FA Carling Premiership participation and render Southampton's desire to build a modern stadium even more distant.

Therefore, when both managers smiled through gritted teeth on Saturday, when they talked of the entertainment value for the public, they were trying to hide tension. "I'm not a teapot thrower," Jones said. "It hurts inside, but if I give up, then the players will give up. We've got to stay calm and keep believing."

Calm? Without the suspended Ken Monkou, with Neil Moss, the reserve goalkeeper, bemused by the swirling corners of Jason Wilcox, Southampton's defence was an open door that Ashley Ward pushed through after 15 minutes. Kevin Gallacher, risked after three months' inactivity, backheeled the ball to him and Ward, despite running wide and wider still on the left, turned expertly to shoot hard and low for goal No 100 of his nomadic career.

Fitfully, Southampton came back. Matt Le Tissier and Hassan Kachloul gave them grace on the ball until, in the 23rd minute, Darren Peacock erred not once but twice in the Rovers defence, allowing Chris Marsden to sneak in and head the first goal of his Southampton days.

Peacock is big on give and take. What he had given away, he was allowed, within minutes, to take back, when, negligently unmarked, he was allowed to score from another Wilcox corner.

The pause for half-time, the withdrawal of Stéphane Henchoz, who probably should not have started because of a groin strain, heralded no immediate change, because Wilcox was permitted the freedom of Southampton's penalty area to ghost in and head Blackburn further in front from a cross by Jason McAteer.

All over? It was just the beginning. Southampton's most profitable change had been to withdraw the industry of Egil Ostenstad and replace it with the athleticism of James Beattie, a former Rovers apprentice. How this young man leaps and hangs in the air, like a reincarnation of Dixie Dean.

Beattie helped to create the predator's goal after 62 minutes for Mark Hughes and then, with an absolutely towering jump, Beattie demolished the Blackburn resistance. His thrust was anticipated by Pahars, who, though slender and diminutive, timed his run and header to perfection.

That was the 86th minute. In the frenzy that followed, Beattie, Kachloul and Le Tissier all were denied, on the line, by Filan, McAteer and Peacock. "For some reason," McAteer said, "we sat back after we went 3-1 up. It provided entertainment, but it wasn't the right thing to do."

SOUTHAMPTON (4-3-1-2): N Moss — S Hiley (sub: M Pahars, 78min), C Lundekvam, F Benali, P Colleter (sub: D Hughes, 46) — C Marsden, J Dodd, H Kachloul — M Le Tissier — E Ostenstad (sub: J Beattie, 46), M Hughes.
BLACKBURN ROVERS (4-4-2): J Filan — J McAteer, S Henchoz (sub: M Broomes, 46), D Peacock, C Davidson — K Gillespie, L Carsley, D Johnson (sub: C Dailly, 78), J Wilcox — A Ward, K Gallacher (sub: K Davies, 70).
Referee: G Barber.



Pahars is congratulated by Beattie, left, after heading Southampton's late equaliser past the dejected Filan. Photograph: Laurence Griffiths/Allsport

Campbell raises Everton's tempo

NEWCASTLE UNITED 1
EVERTON 3
by George Caulkin

GIVEN that Everton have conducted their season with all the grace of a demented orchestra, it can hardly be surprising that alarm bells continue to echo in their ears even when the baton is grasped by another. So it was that when Walter Smith tiptoed into the media room at St James' Park, his quiet words of satisfaction were silenced by a blaring fire siren.

The cause of this emergency was not immediately apparent, although the suggestion was that Newcastle United had felt their fingers burnt, but the interruption failed to provoke histrionics. Throughout Everton's calamitous campaign, Smith has maintained a rare and impressive dignity; victory, even one as significant as this, was not to prompt any noticeable change.

The reticence of the manager was not matched by his team's supporters, who, buoyed by the lack of progress made by those sides below them, celebrated with predictable gusto. Beating Charlton Athletic at Goodison Park next weekend — "Newcastle have got their Cup Final, but that's ours," Kevin Campbell said — would lift them to 40 points and probable safety.

The vibrancy of this performance serves only to make their harrowing travails all the more peculiar, although the arrival of Campbell, 29, on loan from Trabzonspor has added a muscular dynamism to their forward line.

A delicious through-ball was delivered by Don Hutchison after barely 40 seconds, allowing Campbell to outsprint David Beharall, who was making his debut, and direct a firm shot beyond Shay Given. A more substantial reward came on the stroke of half-time, when, after good work by Francis Jeffers, Given failed to clutch Campbell's innocuous flick. Four goals in two games is not to be scoffed at.

Given's flapping was an accurate measure of Newcastle's day, a sullenness settling after the heroics of their FA Cup semi-final. Duncan Ferguson's sole involvement against his former employer was to telephone a local journalist to protest at his treatment in the morning newspapers. Silvio Maric wasted two gaping opportunities and, untypically, Alan Shearer could only convert one of two penalties.




Campbell: dynamism

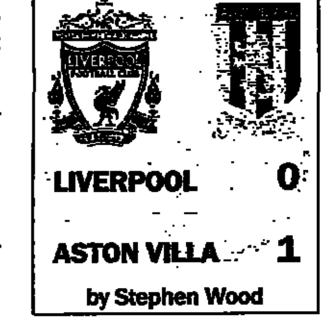
"The desire wasn't there," Ruud Gullit, the manager, said. "It is like having a Ferrari and only using four gears. You might blow up the engine."

At the back, Newcastle remain delicate, racked with injury and nerves. Within 24 hours of Steve Howey, his centre half, being carried off on a stretcher at Old Trafford, Gullit was boarding a flight to France to hasten the signing of Alain Goma, the Paris Saint-Germain defender. The £3.5 million transfer cannot be completed until the summer, however.

It had been expected that Everton's season would finish in similar, chaotic fashion, but Scot Gemmill's 20-yard drive in the 89th minute allows them to shape their own destiny. Hutchison, an exiled Geordie, spoke of sharing his relief. "My mum lives ten minutes round the corner, although as she's a Newcastle fan, I'm not sure how happy she'll be to see me," he said. Another set of eardrums ringing on Saturday night.

NEWCASTLE UNITED (4-3-1-2): S Given — A Griffin, D Beharall, A Hughes, W Barton — R Lee, D Hamann, G Speed — S Maric (sub: L Saha, 59min) — T Ketsbaia (sub: N Solano, 76), A Shearer.
EVERTON (3-5-2): T Myhre — C Short, D Watson, D Unsworth — D Weir, D Hutchison, O Dacourt, S Gemmill, M Ball — F Jeffers (sub: D Cadamarteri, 93), K Campbell (sub: I Bakayoko, 83).
Referee: G Poll.

Liverpool faithful seek justice on and off field



LIVERPOOL 0
ASTON VILLA 1
by Stephen Wood

ONE Liverpool supporter had tied his old replica shirt, "unwashed and unworn since", to the Shankly Gates, inches away from the permanent memorial at Anfield that commemorates the 96 people who lost their lives at Hillsborough. Now, ten years on, the note attached said that this particular fan had to look forward, "for my own sanity".

The bereaved families and friends will find it hard to look forward until justice, regarding the causes of the tragedy, is seen to be done. But how Gérard Houllier, the Liverpool manager, wants to embrace that sentiment. He cannot wait for a future that brings a team worthy of wearing a Liverpool shirt. It is no secret that the present incumbents, save for Owen, Redknapp, Fowler and Heggem, do not form part of Houllier's vision.

On Saturday, Liverpool surpassed themselves in terms of abjectness and, if their excuse was the fact that the context hung heavy over the contest, it was a feeble one.

Undoubtedly, it was an uncomfortable afternoon, but only the quality of football failed to provide a fitting tribute. For the absent Liverpool fans, there was a minute's silence, a moving rendition of *You'll Never Walk Alone*, the sight of the Kop turning into a mosaic of coloured cards that honoured the lives lost and the noise of fans pleading for justice.

There was personal torment on the pitch, too. Fowler, who must have been feeling like it was "me against the world" recently, embraced Paul Merson, the Aston Villa player, in the warm-up, doubtless to thank him for his public show of support last week.

The moment was made more poignant in the light of Merson's admission yesterday that he had relapsed in his fight against alcoholism.

The only goal of the afternoon arrived just after half an hour, when Ian Taylor, the Villa midfield player, found himself unmarked to swing with his right foot and connect with his left.

Mark Bosnich, the Villa goalkeeper, had, along with Merson, laid flowers at the foot of the Kop in a touching gesture before kick-off, but almost ruined it later on by appearing to mimic Fowler's spat with Graeme Le Saux.

Afterwards, Gregory tackled another subject. "Bill Shankly got most things right," he said, "except when he said that football was more important than life and death."

Shortly before, Steve McManaman shook hands with Fowler as the pair walked off the pitch. With Fowler banned until the end of the season and McManaman *transferring to Real Madrid* in May, it was the last time that the pair would be playing together for club, if not country. The end of an era, indeed, and their separation should signal the break up of this Liverpool squad. No one at Anfield will mourn its passing.

LIVERPOOL (4-4-2): D James — R Song (sub: S Dundee, 87min), J Carragher, P Babb, S I Bjornebye (sub: O Leonhardsen, 46) — S McManaman, P Ince, J Redknapp, D Matteo — K Riedle, R Fowler.
ASTON VILLA (4-4-2): M Bosnich — S Watson, C Calderwood, G Southgate, A Wright — S Stone, I Taylor, M Draper, L Hendrie (sub: P Merson, 69) — D Dublin, J Joachim (sub: G Barry, 90).
Referee: J Winter.

Sympathy abundant for troubled Merson

IT IS clear that English football is again ready to help Paul Merson deal with his personal torment. The Aston Villa and England player yesterday admitted that he had relapsed in his battle against alcoholism, and the news drew a sympathetic response (Stephen Wood writes).

David Davies, the FA executive director, said: "I was very saddened to hear this news. Everyone in football has admired the way Paul has fought this problem and we will be talking to his club, and to Paul himself, to see what we can do to help a very popular player. We have helped him in the past and it is our intention to do so again now."

Gordon Taylor, the chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association, said: "It is sad and disappointing to hear this. We will provide all the support we can, but the onus is on Paul to make the first move."

Steve Stride, the Villa secretary-director, also made it clear that they would not desert Merson. "Whatever problems Paul may have, we will support him 100 per cent," he said.

Merson, 31, who maintains that the best treatment comes from playing, said: "I have relapsed big-time and I can feel it all slipping away again. The truth is that it is as hard today as it was four years ago."

Forest forced to wait for the sword to descend



NOTTINGHAM FOREST 0
TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR 1
by Peter Robinson

MARK ANTONY stands before the throng and begins to speak. "Friends, Romans, countrymen, lend me your ears. I come to bury Caesar, not to praise him." And, after a rousing monologue, he does.

It is a wonderful scene, but it needs to be done properly. If Antony gets hiccups or the body starts snoring, the magic is gone, people start to laugh.

And, sad to say, they did just that at the City Ground on Saturday. As the burial scene was acted out in front of them, there were giggles, even the odd guffaw, as Caesar, played by an otherwise exemplary Nottingham Forest, somehow avoided sinking six feet under into the Nationwide League.

It was not their fault as such, they did their bit, losing to an unimpressed Tottenham Hotspur — whose Antony was sadly devoid of swagger or charisma in the absence of David Ginola, their Depardieu — and lying largely motionless on their slab while the crowd looked on, but an equaliser at The Dell and a missed penalty at The Valley ensured that, at the end, Caesar twitched for a moment. They will have to bury him next week instead.

It will happen, though, as sure as eggs are eggs. Forest are on their way out of the FA Carling Premiership and nobody at the club is pretending otherwise any more, directors, players, supporters, no one. They are waiting, gloomily, for the inevitable, the VIPs casting rueful glances towards pictures of glory days gone forever, the plebs crying into their beers.

Perhaps it would have been kinder if they had been relegated at the weekend, if they had been put out of their misery. So what if Mark Crossley saved a penalty just before half-time, Allan Nielsen passing the ball obligingly to the Forest goalkeeper. Once Steffen Iversen had put Spurs ahead on 62 minutes with a drive from the edge of the area, there was no way back. By the end, pockets of their supporters were, literally, laughing at their mistakes, as passes rolled into touch, as clumsy first touches were followed by a hasty second and a hopeful third. Had they been relegated, it would at least have allowed Forest to begin to put the failures and farce of 1998-99 behind them.

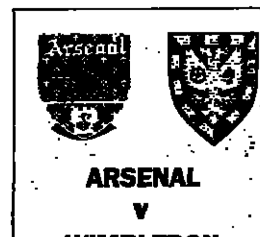
Instead — and if Charlton Athletic fail to beat Spurs tomorrow night — they will go to Aston Villa still awaiting the final nail in their coffin. An interesting fixture, that one, bearing in mind the antipathy between Ron Atkinson, the Forest manager, until the end of the season at any rate, and Doug Ellis, the Villa chairman, his former boss. Atkinson would surely rather be relegated anywhere but there.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST (5-3-2): M Crossley — M Louis-Jean, C Edwards (sub: S Stensaas, 73min), R Gough, S Chettle, A Rogers — A Johnson, P van Hooijdonk, T Bonalair (sub: I Woan, 20) — D Freedman, N Shipperley (sub: M Harewood, 79).
TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (4-4-2): I Walker — S Carr, L Young, S Campbell, M Taricco — S Iversen, T Sherwood, S Freund, A Nielsen — C Armstrong, L Ferdinand (sub: D Anderton, 45).
Referee: G Willard.



Oliver Holt

It has been five days now since that defeat, five days to try to heal the wounds and let the pain subside. It will be hard, but, tonight at Highbury, Arsenal must begin the process of trying to exact revenge over Manchester United.



ARSENAL v WIMBLEDON
Tonight, 8.00

The short period since they fell to Ryan Giggs's brilliant goal at Villa Park has been like a banishment to purgatory for Arsenal fans as they try to come to terms with their first defeat in seven games to their bitter rivals.

For the first time all season, some of their defenders looked their age last Wednesday night as Giggs waltzed through them. They are not strong enough characters, though, to throw all their focus on to the pursuit of the retention of their league title.

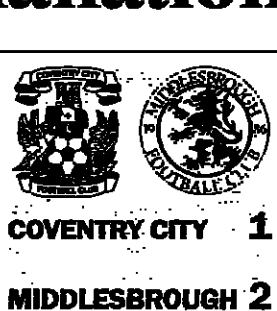
Nothing other than victory against Wimbledon will do. If Arsenal do not win tonight, the setback, coupled with that defeat in the FA Cup semi-final replay, will drain even them of the resolve they need to continue their pursuit of Alex Ferguson's side.

It is hard to imagine that Arsenal, unbeaten in their past 17 league games and with a defensive record that is the epitome of parsimony, will not triumph. Wimbledon seem to have been drained of much of the bulldog spirit that once made them such awkward opponents.

Players such as Nicolas Anelka and David Seaman will feel also that they have much to prove after sub-standard displays against United. Arsenal may not need to be at their best, but if they do not win tonight, the result will be every bit as devastating as that loss at Villa Park.

ARSENAL (probable, 4-4-2): D Seaman — L Dixon, M Keown, T Adams, N Winterburn — R Parlour, P Vieira, E Petit, M Overmars — D Bergkamp, N Anelka.
WIMBLEDON (probable, 4-4-2): N Sullivan — K Cunningham, D Blackwell, C Perry, A Kimble — G Ainsworth, J Euell, R Earle, M Hughes — J Hartson, M Gayle.
Referee: S Lodge.
CORAL ODDS: Arsenal 2-7, Wimbledon 8-1, Draw 7-2.
■ **TELEVISION:** Today: Live on Sky Sports 1, from 7pm.
■ **PREDICTION:** Arsenal to win.

Strachan offers limp explanation



COVENTRY CITY 1
MIDDLESBROUGH 2
by Russell Kempson

MAGNUS HEDMAN is an agreeable young man. He is a keen angler, played ice hockey well enough to be offered professional terms and enjoys the cappuccino culture of the cafés around Northampton, where he lives. He chats freely, intelligently and without a hint of suspicion. He is a good goalkeeper, too. He has yet to play in a losing team since he broke into the Sweden side two years ago and has kept 11 clean sheets in 14 appearances.

All of which does not quite square with Hedman's brusque, albeit apologetic, brush-off when questioned about his health after Coventry's defeat by Middlesbrough at Highfield Road on Saturday. "I've got nothing to say," he said as he hobbled away. "I'm sorry, I can't talk." It is unlikely that his silence was self-determined.

Hedman was injured in the third minute after colliding with Gary Pallister, the Middlesbrough defender, as they jumped for the ball from Townsend's cross. Pallister retired 14 minutes later, having sustained a thigh injury, but Hedman continued, clearly in pain from his damaged hip and unable to take goal kicks or make clearances.

He resembled an arthritic old man, barely able to move, and was no more than a startled bystander when Kinder's half-hit shot slid past him in the 65th minute. In the first half, Hedman appeared to signal to Gordon Strachan, the Coventry manager, that he could not carry on; in the second, the home fans made the same observation, rather more graphically, to Strachan.

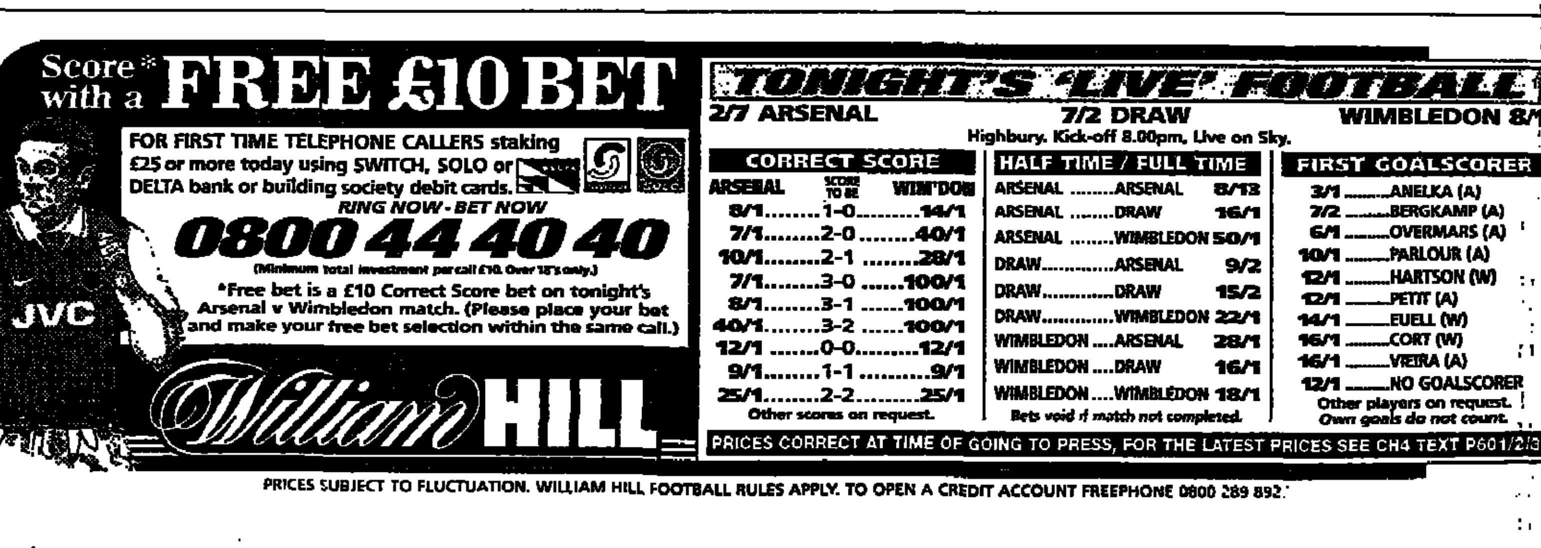
"What does the crowd know?" Strachan said. "I asked Magnus at half-time whether he could play on and he said he could. I sent someone around to ask him again during the second half and he said the same. I don't think the injury affected him for Kinder's goal. He said he was wrong-footed, that's all."

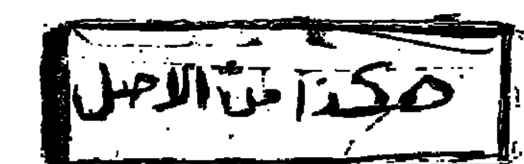
Strachan's explanation was unconvincing. He must have recognised Hedman's distress and could have used Chris Kirkland, 17, the substitute goalkeeper. Better to have an able-bodied novice, surely, than someone incapacitated.

After a dreadful first half, Coventry went in search of the victory and, but for a series of fine saves from Schwarzer, they might have achieved it. Instead, they had only McAllister's 73rd-minute equaliser to show for their increasingly disjointed efforts.

Middlesbrough always appeared capable of stretching their unbeaten run to seven and confirmed as much eight minutes from the end. Maddison's corner was only half-cleared and Gordon volleyed it back through a mass of bodies. Again Hedman stood stricken, yet perhaps even Kirkland would not have reached it. Of the first goal, though, the debate rages on.

COVENTRY CITY (3-5-2): M Hedman — G Breen (sub: P Clement, 89min), R Shaw, P Williams — N Whelan, G McAllister, T E Soltvedt, G Boateng, D Burrows — J Aloisi, D Huckerby.
MIDDLESBROUGH (3-5-2): M Schwarzer — S Vickers, G Pallister (sub: V Kinder, 17, sub: R Mustoe, 90), C Cooper — S Baker, N Maddison, A Townsend, K O'Neill, D Gordon — H Ricard (sub: A Armstrong, 62), B Deane.
Referee: P Jones.



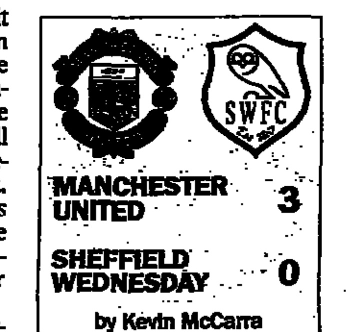


FA Carling Premiership: Veteran striker sustains pursuit of treble



Sheringham clips the ball back across goal for Solskjaer to give Manchester United the lead. Solskjaer returned the compliment for the second goal. Photograph: Dan Chung

Sheringham adds to Ferguson's options



OVER the past year, Teddy Sheringham's career has been as vulnerable to break-ins as an unattended flat on a dank housing estate. First of all, the robbers took his England shirt. The Manchester United jersey was soon to follow. Most ageing sportsmen have to put up with ransacked lives and every other sign of fame seemed set to vanish, but Sheringham's case was different.

The valuables are being returned. Managers function at a low level of compassion and it is the needs of United that have seen Alex Ferguson act in the forward's interests. Introduced as a substitute, he had the height to loom over the Juventus defence and assist at the equaliser in the first leg of the European Cup semi-final. Now, his other attributes are also restored to working order.

On Saturday, Sheffield Wednesday were, in every sense, a flat team. The rigid lines of their defence and midfield left Sheringham, 33, to apply his knowledge of all the hiding places on the pitch. Although he scored a goal of his own and created the others, the veteran was as notable for his playmaking from withdrawn positions, as he pampered other attackers with back-heels, flicks and raking passes.

At the risk of mockery, one might say he was reminiscent of Zinedine Zidane, even if it will be far harder to maintain the resemblance when Zidane himself and the rest of Juventus side are on the field. All the same, Sheringham may well have earned a place in the line-up for Turin. At the very least, he has deepened the resources available to the inscrutable Ferguson, ensuring that Juventus will be in real doubt over United's selection.

If Sheringham has an important role to play, it may be at the continuing expense of Dwight Yorke, despite the latter's strong claim to the Footballer of the Year award. In the longer term, there could be difficulty in paying for that sort of wealth of possibilities. With the BSkyB bid for United blocked by the Government, Martin Edwards, the United chairman, has suggested that transfer activity this summer will be limited to the signing of a replacement for Peter Schmeichel, the goalkeeper.

A new contract should allow Ferguson to become the best-paid manager in the FA Carling Premiership, but personal enrichment alone may not mollify him. Noting that the two group stages of the remodelled European Cup will entail a dozen matches before the knockout phase is reached, Ferguson observed that extended squads will be vital. It might have to be the emerging youngsters, such as Wes Brown, who are asked to swell the numbers at Old Trafford.

Failure is never far away, but United do look equipped to cope with the existing demands. Victory is the elixir and, as Ferguson remarked, the policy of squad rotation works best when fresh faces are introduced to a successful team. With another stride taken towards the recovery of the Premiership title, there is a marked spring in United's step.

While progress is being made in three competitions, connoisseurs of strife have little opportunity to study tensions between board and manager. Sheffield Wednesday had no intention of causing trouble. The function of Danny Wilson's side was purely ceremonial.

Instead of paying attention to the opposition, they only paid tribute to them. After four severe hours of football against Arsenal last week, a United team that retained eight of the outfield players who had begun the FA Cup semi-final replay was surprisingly brisk and clever in its attacks. The docility of Wednesday might have been the reaction of disappointed men who had been through jaded adversaries.

After 36 minutes, Roy Keane reached a long cross from Jesper Blomqvist and pulled the ball back to Sheringham, who jabbed it on towards Ole Gunnar Solskjaer. The Norwegian, darting in front of Emerson Thome, finished firmly. A minute from the interval, United moved further ahead when a cross from Solskjaer was headed home by Sheringham. It was the 250th goal of his senior career, but his first since December 2.

He was at the heart, too, of United's most artful move, in the 62nd minute. Keane cut an acute pass into the path of Paul Scholes, who scored with a deflected shot after Sheringham's glancing return ball had completed a one-two with the midfield player. The team's obvious contentment makes them more dangerous than ever and they will be enhanced by the return of Schmeichel against Juventus.

The injured Ryan Giggs is still doubtful.

"We will need to have a wonderful performance in Turin and hit the heights," Ferguson said, "but the players are doing that quite regularly at the moment. We need to score over there, but we will do that with more control and patience."

Wednesday, with six defeats in seven matches, are giving transfusions of confidence to virtually everyone they encounter. They are not even capable of basic abrasiveness and it was always apparent that Ferguson would be spared any concern over fresh injuries. The movement of United in midfield and attack bewildered Wednesday, ensuring that they were frequently in no position even to attempt a tackle.

On this evidence, they are a demoralised team. They leave no mark of any sort and their saintly conduct could earn them a place in the Uefa Cup through the bizarre Fair Play League. To make absolutely certain of continued involvement in the Premiership, they had better show a little devil.

MANCHESTER UNITED (4-4-2): R van der Gouw — G Neville, W Brown, J Stam (sub D May, 63min), P Neville — P Scholes, R Keane (sub: J Greening, 63), N Butt, J Blomqvist (sub: D Irwin, 75) — E Sheringham, O G Solskjaer.

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (4-4-2): P Srnicek — P Atherton, E Thome, D Walker, A Hinchcliffe — N Alexandersson (sub: P Scott, 55), W Jonk, D Sonner, P Rudi — B Carbone, A Booth (sub: R Cresswell, 71).

Referee: N Barry

Juventus find strength for battle ahead

***Matt Dickinson** in Rome sees an Old Lady still full of life*

He will struggle to refrain from his mischief-making, mind games and provocative digs about what an Italian hides under his pesto sauce, but this week, of all momentous weeks, is not the time for Ferguson to be a smart Alex. The task at hand is too important for that and Juventus are too dangerous to toy with.

The Manchester United manager would be better advised to concentrate on the football and he has more than enough to occupy his thoughts. Saturday in Rome brought confirmation that Juventus are coming to the boil with uncanny timing and they continue to scald anyone who dares to dip in their toes.

They played away to Lazio, the leaders of Serie A, beat them 3-1 and headed back to Turin in the sort of indomitable mood that suggests defeat on Wednesday is unthinkable. It did not matter that Lazio were in reckless form, from the goalkeeper, who literally threw in the first goal, to Christian Vieri, who looked £18 million-worth of running and 18 pence-worth of finishing. They still needed killing off and Juventus were not hesitant when it came to plunging the knife.

"Juventus will have to run a million miles to beat us," Ferguson said recently, to which the Italians would reply: "If that is what it takes." There is a durability to them and it was impossible to leave the Olympic Stadium without a feeling of dread for United's prospects.

Ferguson's team can win in Turin, they can reach the European Cup final, but they will have to play the football of their dreams to do it. Form suggests that they will have the glimmer of an opportunity but miss the moment, as they did against Borussia Dortmund the last time that they were in the semi-finals, and it will be gone.

Lazio paid dearly for letting Juventus off the hook and Sven Goran Eriksson, who is hiding any regrets at turning down a move to Blackburn Rovers, acknowledged the Old Lady's hidden steel. "For Juventus, it is the game of the year and they know how to handle these important occasions," the Lazio coach said. "They are very calm, get on with the job and never lose their heads. Manchester can win the European Cup, for sure, but I think Juventus have the edge."

They began nervously on Saturday, but emerged as assured victors and will be strengthened by the return of Zinedine Zidane, who rested his sore knee, Didier Deschamps, who stretched his legs for only 12 minutes here, and Paolo Montero, the Uruguay defender. United will also have to halt the constant motion of Edgar Davids, who was magnificent.

The only dilemma for Carlo Ancelotti is whether to play two strikers, as he did on Saturday, or whether to bamboozle United again by playing Zidane behind a lone striker in Inzaghi. The Juventus coach's comments on Saturday suggested that he may twist his Old Trafford formation rather than stick. "We will attack from the start," he said. "There is no point us waiting for the opponent."

That is a worrying prospect for the residents of Salford and there was not a whole heap of good news for Chelsea, either. Lazio are their most likely opponents should they reach the Cup Winners' Cup final and while they are wobbling at the top of Serie A after two straight defeats, their quality remains immense.

Undone by Marchegiani, their goalkeeper, whose blunder gave Thierry Henry the first of his two goals, they might have salvaged something had Vieri's radar not been on the blink. "Juventus were lucky," Eriksson said, but United may fear that quality above all.

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Davids: magnificent

Charlton count cost of Mortimer's slip

CHARLTON ATHLETIC 1
LEEDS UNITED 1
by Alyson Rudd

EVENTUALLY, there will be a mathematical formula that explains why one point is sometimes worth less or more than one point. In the meantime, it is left to the football supporter's intuition to grasp the fluctuations.

There is a trend at football grounds for fans to call and be called on their mobile phones. A good many people have never felt comfortable with their radio, it seems, and so fans inside the ground relate the score and pertinent circumstances. At The Valley, you did not need to be able to hear what the other party was saying. On being told the result, they obviously muttered: "Well, that's good, isn't it, against Leeds?" And the Charlton Athletic fan felt obliged to explain that yes, before kick-off it would have been good, but, after seeing what unfolded, it was not.

There were three glaring reasons why this was far from being the valuable point it seemed: Charlton were the better, more imaginative side; they were unlucky in the extreme; and Leeds United, for all their manager's protestations of tiredness, simply went through the motions, with the odd dash of arrogance, as if they had nothing to play for.

Perhaps younger players exhibit weariness through petulance. They were frustrating to watch, for the understanding and technique was there, along with bags of confidence and the odd flamboyant backheel, but so much of it lacked desire.

David O'Leary, the Leeds manager, defended the youngsters who have brought Leeds so close to European Cup qualification using Harry Kewell, 20, as an example. "He's played 50 games this season. People say he's lost his sparkle. I don't think he's entitled to have that bit of sparkle, to be quite honest," O'Leary said.

Ian Harte was, perhaps, the leading exception and it was the 21-year-old full back who engineered an unlikely equaliser with a free kick to the far post that Woodgate bundled in.

Even though Charlton's resources are more stretched than those at Leeds, they found the energy to search for a winner. Stuart having given them the lead after one of many lovely attacking moves that saw the ball swept across the pitch with confidence. They deserved the sort of three-point package that guarantees FA Carling Premiership safety and appeared to have been granted it when Woodgate's challenge brought down Pringle inside the penalty area.

Mortimer, the assigned penalty taker, said afterwards: "I never think I'm going to miss." And, in this instance, he had every right to feel confident, because he used to practise penalties against Nigel Martyn when they were at Crystal Palace together. Yet he slipped as he kicked the ball and although Martyn was fooled and dived the wrong way, the ball struck the upright.

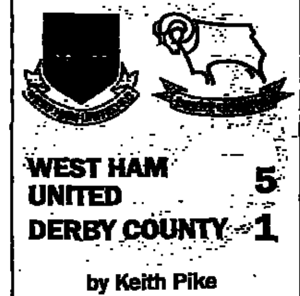
For a last laugh, the fates decreed that Rufus should be shown the red card for stamping. Rufus was sent off on his Premiership debut in August, when Alan Curbishley's appeal fell on deaf ears. Surely this time the ban will be rescinded, for Rufus was patently attempting to evade Matthew Jones's reckless sliding tackle. If the defender does miss Charlton's last three games of the season, then the point gained against Leeds will be worth less than zero.

CHARLTON ATHLETIC (4-4-2): A Petterson — D Mills, R Rufus, C Tiler, C Powell — G Stuart, K Jones, M Kinsella, P Mortimer (sub: M Bowen, 68min) — M Pringle (sub: M Bright, 81), A Hunt.

LEEDS UNITED (4-3-1-2): N Martyn — J Woodgate, L Radebe, D Wetherall, I Harte — D Batty, L Bowyer, D Hopkin (sub: A I Haaland, 18) — H Kewell — A Smith, J F Hasselbaink (sub: M Jones, 36).

Referee: A Wilkie

Di Canio's baggage carried by Derby



IT WOULD be understating the case to say that Harry Redknapp has not always been well rewarded for his investment in foreign forwards. One, Florin Raducioiu, famously went shopping in Harvey Nicks when he should have been playing; another, Marco Boogers, cracked up altogether and went to live in a caravan. Off the peg, off the rails . . . add Futre, Porfirio and Boere to the list and the West Ham United manager might have been excused had he confined his search for exotica to the Isle of Dogs.

Redknapp, though, is nothing if not persistent and when Paolo Di Canio became available in January there were no second thoughts, even if the Italian comes with more baggage than Imelda Marcos returning from half-price day at the local shoe factory. "Di Canio is an outstanding talent and anybody who thought he wasn't is a fool," Redknapp said on Saturday. Nobody owned up.

Certainly, Derby County would testify to his ability. They might have been 3-0 up before West Ham had settled and Jim Smith's team had the last word, too, through their own Paulo. But, in between, Wanchope and his colleagues were ripped apart. The man they call "The Volcano" had only been slumbering at the start. Once Di Canio had erupted, Derby were buried under a cascade of goals and adventure.

It was Di Canio who opened the scoring with the aid of a sizeable deflection off Prior's forehead and Di Canio, cutting in from the right again, who set up Berkovic to double the lead in the 28th minute. He forced Hoult to tip another effort on to a post and provided the jewel in a glittering afternoon when, with a defender breathing down his neck, an up-and-under was brought under instant control on his thigh, the ball then being swept imperiously inside and another attack instigated. Di Canio faded towards the end, but the impression that he made was indelible.

West Ham supporters should enjoy him while they can, because there is nothing as certain as that it will all end in tears. It always does with Di Canio, now at his ninth club in a 13-year career touched with playing peaks and temperamental troughs, most notoriously at Hillsborough. Yet when he keeps his excesses in check there are few finer sights and, having exchanged his customary white boots for a pair in fetching aquamarine, Di Canio was at his goody-goody blue-shoes best at Upton Park.

Three up through Wright's poaching instincts early in the second half, Hoult spilling Lampard's bouncing 30-yard effort, West Ham turned a beating into a rout with two more goals around the hour mark, a far-post header from Ruddock and a more delicate one at the near post from Sinclair. Derby deserved Wanchope's late reply — the fact that Hislop was named man of the match says everything about this free-flowing, fluctuating affair — but it was the Londoners who maintained their challenge for fifth place in the FA Carling Premiership and a route to mainstream Europe via the InterToto Cup.

"We've not been out of the top eight all season and when the punters can come here and watch that kind of football, they will have gone home delighted with the players I've signed for them," Redknapp said. And then he was off "to get Jim Smith a glass of red wine". Di Canio's magic moments are indeed worth sharing and savouring.

WEST HAM UNITED (3-4-1-2): S Hislop — S Potts (sub: I Wright, 18min), I Pearce, N Ruddock — S Lomas (sub: J Cole, 71), M-V Foé, F Lampard, S Minto — E Berkovic — P Di Canio, T Sinclair.

DERBY COUNTY (3-4-3): R Hoult — J Laursen, S Prior, H Carbonari — L Bohinen, S Schnoor, D Powell, A Dorigo (sub: K Harper, 32) — D Sturridge, P Wanchope, M Beck (sub: A Murray, 58).

Referee: K Burge.

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

CHARLTON (1) 1 LEEDS (1) 1
Stuart 20; Woodgate 24. 20,043
Sent off: R Rufus (Charlton Athletic) 65

Charlton Athletic: A Petterson, D Mills, R Rufus, C Tiler, C Powell, G Stuart, M Kinsella, K Jones, P Mortimer (sub: M Bowen 68min), M Pringle (sub: M Bright 82), A Hunt.

Leeds: N Martyn, J Woodgate, L Radebe, D Wetherall, I Harte, D Hopkin (sub: A I Haaland 14), L Bowyer, D Batty, H Kewell, J F Hasselbaink (sub: M Jones 32), A Smith.

Booked: Bowyer, Batty, Woodgate, Smith, Kewell.

Referee: A Wilkie.

COVENTRY (0) 1 MIDDLESBROUGH (0) 2
McAllister 72; Kinder 64, Gordon 82. 19,231

Coventry City: M Hedman, G Breen (sub: P Clement 88min), R Shaw, P Williams, D Burrows, G Boateng, T E Soltvedt, G McAllister, N Whelan, J Aloisi, D Huckerby.

Booked: Breen.

Middlesbrough: M Schwarzer, S Vickers, G Pallister (sub: V Kinder 16, sub: R Mustoe 90), C Cooper, D Gordon, N Maddison, A Townsend, K O'Neill, S Baker, B Deane, H Ricard (sub: A Armstrong 62).

Booked: O'Neill, Kinder

Referee: P Jones.

LIVERPOOL (0) 0 ASTON VILLA (1) 1
Taylor 33. 44,306

Liverpool: D James, R Song (sub: S Dundee 86min), J Carragher, P Babb, S I Bjornebye (sub: O Leonhardsen 46), S McManaman, J Redknapp, P Ince, D Matteo, R Fowler, K Riedle.

Booked: Song, Riedle.

Aston Villa: M Bosnich, S Watson, C Calderwood, G Southgate, A Wright, S Stone, I Taylor, M Draper, L Hendrie (sub: P Merson 70), D Dublin, J Joachim (sub: G Barry 90).

Booked: Bosnich.

Referee: J Winter.

MAN UTD (2) 3 SHEFFIELD WED (0) 0
Solskjaer 35, Sheringham 44, Scholes 62. 55,270

Manchester Utd: R Van Der Gouw, G Neville, J Stam (sub: D May 63min), W Brown, P Neville, N Butt, P Scholes, R Keane (sub: J Greening 63), J Blomqvist (sub: D Irwin 75), E Sheringham, O G Solskjaer.

Sheffield Wednesday: P Srnicek, P Atherton, E Thome, D Walker, A Hinchcliffe, N Alexandersson (sub: P Scott 55), W Jonk, D Sonner, P Rudi, B Carbone, A Booth (sub: R Cresswell 71).

Referee: N Barry.

NEWCASTLE (0) 1 EVERTON (2) 3
Shearer 82 (pen); Campbell 1, 44, Gemmill 86. 36,775

Newcastle United: S Given, D Barton, R Lee, G Speed, A Shearer, A Hughes, W Barton, T Ketsbaia (sub: N Solano 75min), A Griffin, D Hamann, S Maric (sub: L Saha 55).

Booked: Lee.

Everton: T Myhre, M Ball, O Dacourt, D Watson, D Unsworth, K Campbell (sub: I Bakayoko 82), D Hutchison, S Gemmill, C Short, D Weir, F Jeffers (sub: D Cadamarteri 82).

Booked: Short, Gemmill.

Referee: G Poll.

NOTTM FOREST (0) 0 TOTTENHAM (0) 1
Iversen 62. 25,181

Nottingham Forest: M Crossley, M Jean, C Edwards (sub: S Stensaas 73min), R Gough, S Chettle, T Bonalair (sub: I Woan 20), A Johnson, A Rogers, P Van Hooijdonk, N Shipperley (sub: M Harewood 80), D Freedman.

Booked: Louis-Jean, Gough, Johnson, Chettle

Tottenham Hotspur: I Walker, S Carr, S Freund, A Nielsen, L Ferdinand (sub: D Anderton 46), C Armstrong, S Iversen, M Taricco, S Campbell, T Sherwood, L Young.

Booked: Nielsen.

Referee: G Willard.

SOUTHAMPTON (1) 3 BLACKBURN (2) 3
Marsden 22, M Hughes 81, Pahars 85; Ward 14, Peacock 25, Wilcox 47. 15,209

Southampton: N Moss, S Hiley (sub: M Pahars 78min), C Lundekvam, F Benali, P Colleter (sub: D Hughes 45), M Le Tissier, J Dodd, C Marsden, H Kachloul, M Hughes, E Ostenstad (sub: J Beattie 45).

Booked: Le Tissier, D Hughes.

Blackburn Rovers: J Filan, J McAteer, D Peacock, S Henchoz (sub: M Broomes 45), C Davidson, K Gillespie, L Carsley, D Johnson (sub: C Dailly 78), J Wilcox, A Ward, K Gallacher (sub: K Davies 69).

Booked: McAteer, Gillespie. Referee: G Barber.

WEST HAM (2) 5 DERBY (0) 1
Di Canio 19, Berkovic 28, Wright 55, Ruddock 64, Sinclair 68; Wanchope 79. 25,485

West Ham: S Hislop, S Lomas (sub: J Cole 70min), I Pearce, N Ruddock, S Potts (sub: I Wright 18), T Sinclair, F Lampard, M Foe, S Minto, P Di Canio, E Berkovic.

Booked: Wright.

Derby County: R Hoult, S Schnoor, H Carbonari, J Laursen, S Prior, A Dorigo (sub: K Harper 32), D Powell, M Beck (sub: A Murray 57), L Bohinen, P Wanchope, D Sturridge.

Booked: Sturridge. Referee: K Burge.

Yesterday

CHELSEA (1) 2 LEICESTER (0) 2
Zola 30, Petrescu 69; Duberry 82 (og), Guppy 88. 34,535

Chelsea: E De Goey, A Ferrer (sub: M Duberry 74min), F Leboeuf, M Desailly, D Petrescu, D Wise, J Morris (sub: G Poyet 70), R Di Matteo, B Goldbaek (sub: G Le Saux 46), T A Flo, G Zola.

Booked: Petrescu.

Leicester City: K Keller, F Sinclair, M Elliott, R Ullathorne (sub: P Kaamark 32), A Impey, R Savage, N Lennon, A Gunnlaugsson (sub: I Marshall 70), S Guppy, A Cottee, E Heskey.

Booked: Keller.

Referee: M Reed.

OVERSEAS

GERMAN LEAGUE: Bayer Leverkusen 4 Borussia Mönchengladbach 1; Bayern Munich 3 Eintracht Frankfurt 1; Nuremburg 0 Hertha Berlin 0; Hansa Rostock 2 Kaiserslautern 1; MSV Duisburg 2 Werder Bremen 0; SC Freiburg 0 Schalke 04 2; VfL Bochum 3 VfB Stuttgart 3; VfL Wolfsburg 1 TSV 1860 Munich 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bayern Munich	27	20	4	3	62	19	64
Bayer Leverkusen	27	15	9	3	53	23	54
Kaiserslautern	27	14	6	7	41	37	48
Hertha Berlin	27	13	6	8	40	27	45
VfL Wolfsburg	27	12	9	6	44	33	45
*Borussia Dortmund	26	12	7	7	37	26	43
TSV 1860 Munich	27	10	7	10	39	37	37
MSV Duisburg	27	9	9	9	34	37	36
*SV Hamburg	26	9	8	9	30	34	35
Schalke 04	27	8	10	9	30	38	34
VfB Stuttgart	27	7	12	8	34	35	33
Werder Bremen	27	7	8	12	31	38	29
VfL Bochum	27	7	8	12	35	45	29
Nuremburg	27	5	13	9	30	42	28
SC Freiburg	27	6	9	12	26	35	27
Hansa Rostock	27	6	8	13	35	48	26
Eintracht Frankfurt	27	5	8	14	28	44	23
Mönchengladbach	27	3	7	17	29	62	16

* Does not include last night's late match

ITALIAN LEAGUE: Bari 0 Salernitana 0; Bologna 3 Fiorentina 0; Empoli 1 Piacenza 2; Internazionale 1 Vicenza 1; Lazio 1 Juventus 3; Parma 1 Sampdoria 1; Perugia 3 AS Roma 2; Udinese 1 AC Milan 5; Venezia 1 Cagliari 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lazio	29	16	8	5	56	29	56
AC Milan	29	15	10	4	46	31	55
Fiorentina	29	15	6	8	45	33	51
Parma	29	13	10	6	50	31	49
AS Roma	29	12	9	8	57	40	45
Juventus	29	12	9	8	36	30	45
Udinese	29	13	6	10	42	43	45
Bologna	29	11	10	8	40	33	43
Internazionale	29	11	7	11	48	40	40
Venezia	29	9	8	12	29	37	35
Perugia	29	10	5	14	37	50	35
Piacenza	29	9	7	13	42	44	34
Cagliari	29	9	6	14	39	41	33
Bari	29	6	15	8	33	41	33
Vicenza	29	7	9	13	21	35	30
Sampdoria	29	7	9	13	30	47	30
Salernitana	29	7	7	15	38	46	28
Empoli	29	4	9	16	23	51	19

Empoli deducted 2 points.

SPANISH LEAGUE: Barcelona 2 Real Mallorca 1; Real Valladolid 1 Atlético Madrid 0.

DUTCH LEAGUE: AZ Alkmaar 1 Graafschap De Doetinchem 3; Twente Enschede 0 Cambuur Leeuwarden 0; MVV Maastricht 1 Sparta Rotterdam 1; PSV Eindhoven 2 NEC Nijmegen 0; Vitesse Arnhem 1 Heerenveen 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
*Feyenoord	27	21	4	2	65	27	67
Vitesse Arnhem	28	16	6	6	52	33	54
PSV Eindhoven	28	15	8	5	68	40	53
Willem II Tilburg	29	16	5	8	55	42	53
Heerenveen	29	13	9	7	49	37	48
Roda JC Kerkrade	28	13	8	7	48	33	47
Twente Enschede	29	12	10	7	42	35	46
*Ajax	27	12	8	7	55	32	44
AZ Alkmaar	29	10	11	8	44	48	41
*Fortuna Sittard	28	10	7	11	36	40	37
*Utrecht	28	9	7	12	49	53	34
NEC Nijmegen	28	8	8	12	35	45	32
Graafschap	29	7	11	11	34	47	32
Cambuur Leeuwarden	29	7	9	13	32	52	30
MVV Maastricht	29	5	10	14	33	52	25
Sparta Rotterdam	29	5	4	20	28	60	19
*RKC Waalwijk	28	4	6	18	28	53	18
*NAC Breda	28	3	7	18	27	51	16

* Does not include last night's late matches

PORTUGUESE LEAGUE: Alverca 3 Sporting Lisbon 2; Boavista 3 Academica 1; Sporting Braga 2 Benfica 1; Farense 2 Beira Mar 1, Guimarães 3 Estrela Amadora 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
*FC Porto	27	19	5	3	62	23	62
Boavista	28	17	9	2	47	22	60
Benfica	28	17	5	6	59	22	56
Sporting Lisbon	28	15	9	4	53	24	54
Estrela Amadora	28	10	9	9	29	34	39
*União Leiria	27	10	8	9	26	22	38
*Vitoria Setubal	27	10	8	9	28	30	38
Guimarães	28	10	7	11	43	37	37
Farense	28	8	8	12	28	43	32
*Salgueiros	27	6	13	8	35	43	31
Alverca	28	7	10	11	29	39	31
Sporting Braga	28	7	10	11	32	46	31
*Campomaiorense	27	8	6	13	33	40	30
*CS Maritimo	27	7	8	12	32	36	29
*Rio Ave	27	6	11	10	23	37	29
Beira Mar	28	5	12	11	27	41	27
*Chaves	27	5	9	13	34	51	24
Academica	28	4	7	17	27	57	19

* Does not include last night's late matches

Thierry Henry, left, scored twice for Juventus to leave beaten Lazio looking over their shoulder in Serie A. AC Milan won 5-1 to close the gap at the top to one point

CARLING F.A. PREMIERSHIP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Goal diff
	HOME						AWAY						
1 Man Utd	32	12	4	1	41	16	7	6	2	31	16	67	+40
2 Chelsea	33	9	6	1	23	11	8	7	2	26	15	64	+23
3 Arsenal	32	11	5	0	27	4	6	7	3	16	9	63	+30
4 Leeds	33	11	4	2	30	8	5	7	4	23	21	59	+24
5 Aston Villa	34	9	3	5	28	24	5	7	5	17	15	52	+6
6 West Ham	34	10	3	4	27	21	4	6	7	12	20	51	-2
7 Middlesbro	34	7	9	1	24	11	5	5	7	22	31	50	+4
8 Derby	33	8	5	4	22	19	4	6	6	15	22	47	-4
9 Liverpool	32	8	4	3	36	19	4	4	9	21	23	44	+15
10 Tottenham	32	7	6	3	24	19	3	7	6	12	18	43	-1
11 Newcastle	33	7	4	6	24	23	4	5	7	20	25	42	-4
12 Wimbledon	33	7	6	4	21	18	3	5	8	16	32	41	-13
13 Leicester	32	5	6	5	21	23	4	7	5	13	18	40	-7
14 Sheff Wed	33	6	3	7	18	14	5	2	10	20	25	38	-1
15 Everton	34	4	8	5	12	11	5	2	10	19	30	37	-10
16 Coventry	34	7	5	5	22	18	3	2	12	13	29	37	-12
17 Charlton	33	4	6	6	19	15	3	5	9	16	29	32	-9
18 Blackburn	33	6	4	6	19	19	1	7	9	16	27	32	-11
19 Southamptn	34	7	4	6	25	25	1	3	13	6	38	31	-32
20 Nottm F	34	1	7	9	15	31	3	2	12	15	35	21	-36

Nationwide FOOTBALL LEAGUE

FIRST DIVISION

BIRMINGHAM (0) 0 WOLVES (1) 1
Corica 13. 28,143

BOLTON (1) 2 IPSWICH (0) 0
Taylor 37, Gudjohnsen 69. 19,894

BRADFORD (1) 2 HUDDERSFIELD (3) 3
Blake 8, Windass 72; Stewart 22, Allison 24, Thornley 36. 15,124
Sent off: S Jenkins (Huddersfield) 44

CREWE (0) 0 WATFORD (1) 1
Mooney 24. 5,461

CRYSTAL PALACE (0) 0 SWINDON (0) 1
Onuora 51. 18,660

GRIMSBY (0) 0 BURY (0) 0
5,132
Sent off: R Smith (Grimsby) 72

NORWICH (1) 2 TRANMERE (1) 2
Bellamy 15, Mulryne 62; Kelly 9, Hill 75. 14,735

PORT VALE (0) 1 OXFORD UTD (0) 0
Tankard 55. 7,393

SHEFFIELD UTD (1) 2 QPR (0) 0
Marcelo 38 (pen), 61. 14,341

STOCKPORT (0) 2 BRISTOL CITY (0) 2
Ellis 58, 69; Brennan 60, Torpey 76. 7,602

WEST BROM (0) 2 PORTSMOUTH (2) 2
Maresca 67, Quinn 78; Durnin 31, 34. 12,750

FRIDAY'S LATE RESULT: Barnsley 1 Sunderland 3.

SECOND DIVISION

BURNLEY (0) 0 BOURNEMOUTH (0) 0
9,802

CHESTERFIELD (0) 1 FULHAM (0) 0
Hewitt 77. 5,800

GILLINGHAM (0) 0 MAN CITY (1) 2
Cooke 31, Horlock 64. 10,400

LUTON (0) 0 LINCOLN (0) 1
Thorpe 61. 5,122

PRESTON (0) 1 BLACKPOOL (1) 2
Nogan 60; Nowland 45, Ormerod 89. 15,337

READING (0) 0 NORTHAMPTON (0) 1
Savage 89. 10,132

WALSALL (0) 2 MACCLESFIELD (0) 0
Steiner 54, Rammell 59. 6,256

WREXHAM (1) 1 OLDHAM (1) 2
Spink 35; Garnett 40, Holt 84. 3,267

YORK (0) 2 STOKE (1) 2
Garratt 51, Jordan 67; G Kavanagh 10 (pen), 85. 4,142

POSTPONED: Bristol R v Millwall (Pools Panel Verdict: HT Score draw. FT: Away win); Wycombe v Wigan (Pools Panel Verdict: HT No score draw. FT: No score draw).

FRIDAY'S LATE RESULT: Colchester 2 Notts County 1.

THIRD DIVISION

BARNET (0) 0 MANSFIELD (0) 0
1,861

BRENTFORD (0) 0 LEYTON ORIENT (0) 0
8,245
Sent off: S Hicks (Leyton Orient) 49

DARLINGTON (0) 0 CAMBRIDGE U (0) 0
2,668

HALIFAX (1) 1 BRIGHTON (0) 0
Jackson 28. 2,773

HARTLEPOOL (2) 3 SCARBOROUGH (0) 0
Freestone 26, 41 (pen), Baker 90. 5,098

HULL (0) 2 SCUNTHORPE (2) 3
Joyce 82, D Brown 89; Forrester 14, Stamp 24, Eyre 77. 9,835

PETERBOROUGH (1) 4 TORQUAY (0) 0
Gazioff 27, Etherington 58, Hooper 72, Green 90. 4,162

PLYMOUTH (0) 0 SOUTHEND (2) 3
Conlon 12, 90, Houghton 42. 3,949

ROCHDALE (0) 3 CHESTER (1) 1
Morris 60, 78, 88; Beckett 25. 1,712

ROTHERHAM (0) 3 CARLISLE (1) 1
Fortune-West 73, 78, 79; Dobie 45. 4,267

SHREWSBURY (0) 1 EXETER (0) 1
Rees 63 (og); Tosh 88. 2,419

Yesterday

CARDIFF (0) 0 SWANSEA (0) 0
10,809

Auto Windscreens SHIELD

FINAL

MILLWALL (0) 0 WIGAN (0) 1
Rogers 90. 55,349

BANK OF SCOTLAND SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE SPL

ABERDEEN (0) 0 DUNDEE UTD (1) 4
Dodds 36, 56, Miller 53, Olofsson 54. 11,603
Sent off: N Pepper (Aberdeen) 72

CELTIC (0) 1 MOTHERWELL (0) 0
Larsson 63 (pen). 59,588

DUNFERMLINE (0) 0 KILMARNOCK (1) 6
Henry 26, 75, Mitchell 56, Durrant 58, Vareille 68, McCoist 90. 5,617

ST JOHNSTONE (0) 0 HEARTS (0) 0
6,146

POSTPONED: Dundee v Rangers (Pools Panel Verdict: HT Away win. FT: Away win).

FIRST DIVISION

FALKIRK (0) 1 RAITH (0) 0
Crabbe 56 (pen). 2,532

GK MORTON (0) 0 AIRDRIE (1) 2
Evans 23, Moore 58. 1,700

HAMILTON (1) 1 STRANRAER (0) 0
Thomson 19. 525

HIBERNIAN (0) 2 ST MIRREN (1) 1
Hartley 72, Latapy 85; McGarry 32. 8,989

Yesterday

AYR (0) 0 CLYDEBANK (0) 0
2,113

SECOND DIVISION

ARBROATH (1) 1 LIVINGSTON (0) 1
Crawford 45; Robertson 89. 1,020

CLYDE (0) 0 ALLOA (1) 1
S Wilson 12. 785

EAST FIFE (1) 2 FORFAR (0) 1
Ramsay 24, Moffat 86; McLain 56. 594

QUEEN OF SOUTH (0) 1 INVERNESS C (1) 1
Rowe 89; Wilson 17. 1,214

STIRLING (2) 3 PARTICK (0) 0
Provan 9, Donald 25, Bone 68. 1,672
Sent off: A Archibald (Partick) 26

THIRD DIVISION

ALBION (0) 0 EAST STIRLING (1) 2
Hardie 18, Laidlaw 80. 304

DUMBARTON (0) 2 BRECHIN (0) 0
Smith 48, Robertson 74 (pen). 582

MONTROSE (1) 1 STENHOUSEMUIR (1) 2
Magee 7; Graham 36, Lawrence 90. 389

ROSS COUNTY (1) 1 QUEEN'S PARK (0) 2
McGlashan 17; Brown 53, K Finlayson 86. 3,759

Yesterday

BERWICK (0) 2 COWDENBEATH (1) 1
Shaw 60, Leask 89; Stewart 33. 404
Sent off: C Winter (Cowdenbeath) 89, R Thomson (Cowdenbeath) 82, M Hunter (Berwick) 53

GOALSCORERS

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: 28: D Yorke (Man Utd). 23: M Owen (Liverpool). 21: A Cole (Man Utd); J Aloisi (Coventry, 17 for Portsmouth). 20: A Ward (Blackburn, 15 for Barnsley). 19: R Cresswell (Sheff Wed, 19 for York). 18: A Shearer (Newcastle); R Fowler (Liverpool); H Ricard (Middlesbrough). 17: O G Solskjaer (Man Utd); J F Hasselbaink (Leeds). 15: D Dublin (Aston Villa, 4 for Coventry); A Cottee (Leicester); N Anelka (Arsenal); D Bergkamp (Arsenal).

FIRST DIVISION: 32: L Hughes (West Brom). 25: M Stewart (Huddersfield). 24: L Mills (Bradford). 23: K Phillips (Sunderland). 21: D Windass (Bradford, 18 for Oxford Utd); A Akinbiyi (Bristol City). 20: N Quinn (Sunderland). 19: I Roberts (Norwich); Marcelo (Sheff Utd). 18: I Onuora (Swindon); B Angell (Stockport); C Bellamy (Norwich). 17: K Irons (Tranmere).

SECOND DIVISION: 25: G Horsfield (Fulham, 8 for Halifax); M Stein (Bournemouth). 22: A Payton (Burnley), J Cureton (Bristol Rovers). 21: K Nogan (Preston); S Barlow (Wigan). 20: C Asaba (Gillingham, 1 for Reading); J Roberts (Bristol Rovers); A Rammell (Walsall). 18: N Harris (Millwall); S Goater (Man City); B Hayles (Fulham, 10 for Bristol Rovers). 16: R Taylor (Gillingham); C Corazzin (Northampton); K Connolly (Wrexham).

THIRD DIVISION: 22: J Forrester (Scunthorpe). 21: M Butler (Cambridge Utd). 20: M Gabbiadini (Darlington); L Owusu (Brentford). 18: K Nugent (Cardiff); S Partridge (Brentford, 15 for Torquay); L Peacock (Mansfield). 17: J Taylor (Cambridge Utd). 16: J Williams (Cardiff); J Eyre (Scunthorpe). 15: K Charlery (Barnet); S Flack (Exeter); T Benjamin (Cambridge Utd).

Includes all competitions

Nationwide FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

DOVER (0) 0 KIDDERMINSTR (1) 1
Hadley 7. 925

FARNBOROUGH (0) 1 DONCASTER (0) 0
Robson 65. 893

HEREFORD (0) 0 WELLING (0) 0
1,532

NORTHWICH (0) 2 HAYES (1) 1
Simpson 60, Tait 71; Key 9 (og). 1,150
Sent off: J Goodliffe (Hayes) 84

SOUTHPORT (0) 0 KETTERING (0) 1
Vowden 90. 1,070

STEVENAGE (0) 1 BARROW (0) 2
Alford 58 (pen); Dawson 64, Foster 80. 1,701
Sent off: L Prior (Barrow) 45, R Harrison (Stevenage) 45

WOKING (2) 3 TELFORD (0) 0
West 30, 43, Bolt 63 (pen). 1,677

YEOVIL (1) 2 LEEK (0) 0
Patmore 30, B Smith 56. 2,442
Sent off: D Hawtin (Leek) 31

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
	HOME						AWAY					
Cheltenham	37	10	7	1	31	11	11	5	3	34	18	75
Kettering	41	11	5	5	31	16	10	5	5	25	20	73
Hayes	40	11	3	6	31	23	10	4	6	29	25	70
Rushden	38	10	3	5	36	20	9	8	3	28	17	68
Yeovil	37	8	4	7	34	28	10	7	1	25	16	65
Stevenage	39	8	9	3	34	23	7	7	5	20	19	61
Northwich	39	10	3	6	27	19	7	6	7	28	30	60
Woking	40	9	5	6	27	19	8	4	8	22	24	60
Kingstonian	37	9	7	3	25	16	6	5	7	22	29	57
Hednesford	38	9	6	3	27	20	5	8	7	18	20	56
Dover	40	7	8	5	26	20	7	4	9	26	27	54
Kiddermnstr	40	9	4	7	31	20	5	5	10	24	27	51
Forest Green	36	8	4	6	25	19	5	7	6	25	23	50
Hereford	40	8	5	7	22	15	5	5	10	23	29	49
Morecambe	38	8	5	7	30	29	5	2	11	24	42	46
Doncaster	40	7	5	8	26	25	4	7	9	23	29	45
Telford	40	7	8	5	24	22	3	7	10	19	35	45
Barrow	40	7	5	8	15	21	3	5	12	21	39	40
Southport	39	5	9	6	26	27	3	6	10	16	30	39
Welling	39	3	7	10	15	28	4	6	9	22	33	34
Leek Town	38	5	5	8	30	31	3	3	14	13	31	32
Farnborough	40	6	5	9	29	47	1	6	13	12	40	32

Nationwide FOOTBALL LEAGUE

FIRST DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Gls
	HOME						AWAY						
1 Sunderland	43	18	2	1	48	9	11	9	2	40	18	98	(88)
2 Bradford	43	15	3	4	48	20	9	5	7	28	24	80	(76)
3 Ipswich	42	14	1	5	31	12	10	7	5	32	16	80	(63)
4 Birmingham	42	10	7	4	30	15	10	5	6	31	19	72	(61)
5 Bolton	42	13	5	4	43	24	6	9	5	29	30	71	(72)
6 Wolves	42	11	9	1	34	15	8	4	9	26	23	70	(60)
7 Watford	42	10	8	3	27	18	8	5	8	31	34	67	(58)
8 Sheff Utd	42	11	6	5	39	28	5	6	9	26	32	60	(65)
9 Huddersfld	43	11	8	2	38	22	4	6	12	22	46	59	(60)
10 C Palace	43	11	9	2	41	24	3	6	12	14	37	57	(55)
11 Grimsby	41	10	5	5	23	16	6	4	11	15	31	57	(38)
12 West Brom	43	11	4	7	42	33	4	6	11	24	39	55	(66)
13 Norwich	42	6	11	4	30	25	7	5	9	24	30	55	(54)
14 Stockport	42	7	9	6	24	20	5	8	7	24	30	53	(48)
15 Tranmere	43	7	6	8	33	28	4	13	5	26	30	52	(59)
16 Barnsley	43	7	8	7	33	28	5	8	8	20	25	52	(53)
17 Swindon	43	6	8	7	37	41	6	3	13	18	35	47	(55)
18 Portsmouth	43	9	5	7	31	23	1	9	12	22	44	44	(53)
19 QPR	42	8	7	6	27	19	3	4	14	18	36	44	(45)
20 Port Vale	42	9	3	9	19	26	3	4	14	22	45	43	(41)
21 Bury	43	7	7	7	21	26	1	10	11	11	32	41	(32)
22 Oxford Utd	43	6	8	7	24	26	3	5	14	17	41	40	(41)
23 Bristol City	42	6	8	7	33	34	2	7	12	21	40	39	(54)
24 Crewe	42	5	6	10	23	34	4	5	12	25	42	38	(48)

SECOND DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Gls
	HOME						AWAY						
1 Fulham	41	17	2	1	42	10	12	4	5	27	17	93	(69)
2 Walsall	41	12	6	3	32	20	12	2	6	25	21	80	(57)
3 Man City	43	12	6	3	33	12	9	9	4	29	17	78	(62)
4 Preston	42	11	5	5	44	22	10	6	5	30	22	74	(74)
5 Gillingham	42	14	5	3	41	17	5	9	6	24	24	71	(65)
6 Bournemth	42	14	5	2	37	11	6	6	9	24	28	71	(61)
7 Stoke	41	9	4	8	29	28	10	2	8	25	25	63	(54)
8 Wigan	39	11	4	4	34	14	7	4	9	25	26	62	(59)
9 Millwall	41	9	7	5	31	21	8	3	9	18	26	61	(49)
10 Chesterfld	41	14	3	4	34	16	3	7	10	11	24	61	(45)
11 Reading	43	9	6	7	27	26	6	7	8	24	31	58	(51)
12 Blackpool	42	6	8	7	21	21	7	5	9	18	27	52	(39)
13 Notts Co	41	7	5	7	26	23	6	5	11	22	33	49	(48)
14 Luton	42	9	4	8	23	24	4	6	11	23	33	49	(46)
15 Colchester	42	8	7	6	22	26	3	8	10	23	35	48	(45)
16 Wrexham	41	7	6	8	19	25	5	6	9	21	32	48	(40)
17 Burnley	42	7	7	8	22	33	4	7	9	25	37	47	(47)
18 Bristol R	41	7	8	6	30	26	3	7	10	24	24	45	(54)
19 Oldham	42	6	4	10	22	27	6	5	11	21	32	45	(43)
20 York	42	5	8	8	27	32	6	3	12	26	42	44	(53)
21 Northmptn	42	4	9	7	18	23	6	5	11	17	26	44	(35)
22 Wycombe	41	7	4	10	27	23	3	7	10	18	30	41	(45)
23 Lincoln City	41	8	4	8	26	25	3	3	15	11	43	40	(37)
24 Macclesfld	41	7	4	9	19	22	3	5	13	16	31	39	(35)

THIRD DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Gls
	HOME						AWAY						
1 Camb Utd	41	13	5	3	40	19	9	5	6	33	23	76	(73)
2 Cardiff	43	13	6	3	35	17	8	7	6	23	18	76	(58)
3 Brentford	41	14	5	2	38	17	8	1	11	27	35	72	(65)
4 Scunthorpe	42	13	3	5	39	26	8	4	9	27	29	70	(66)
5 Rotherham	41	10	7	4	38	24	8	4	8	34	30	65	(72)
6 L Orient	41	11	5	5	32	27	6	9	5	25	24	65	(57)
7 Halifax	42	9	8	4	31	23	7	6	8	22	27	62	(53)
8 Swansea	41	9	9	2	27	16	7	5	9	19	25	62	(46)
9 Peterboro	43	10	4	8	38	29	7	6	8	29	25	61	(67)
10 Mansfield	42	13	2	5	33	17	4	8	10	22	39	61	(55)
11 Darlington	41	9	5	6	34	20	7	4	10	24	31	57	(58)
12 Plymouth	42	11	5	6	30	17	5	4	11	22	28	57	(52)
13 Exeter	41	11	5	5	28	16	3	7	10	14	25	54	(42)
14 Barnet	42	10	5	7	30	29	4	6	10	20	34	53	(50)
15 Brighton	43	8	1	12	24	34	8	4	10	23	29	53	(47)
16 Rochdale	42	9	8	4	22	16	4	6	11	18	31	53	(40)
17 Chester	43	6	10	5	25	27	6	6	10	27	35	52	(52)
18 Southend	43	8	5	8	22	16	5	6	11	26	37	50	(48)
19 Shrewsbury	42	10	6	5	33	26	2	8	11	12	28	50	(45)
20 Torquay	43	8	9	4	27	17	3	8	11	18	37	50	(45)
21 Hull	43	7	5	10	24	28	6	5	10	19	32	49	(43)
22 Hartlepool	42	7	6	8	32	27	5	4	12	18	35	46	(50)
23 Carlisle	43	7	7	7	20	17	3	7	12	18	32	44	(38)
24 Scarboro	41	7	2	10	24	33	5	3	14	18	37	41	(42)

SCOTLAND

BANK OF SCOTLAND PREMIER LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Goal diff
	HOME						AWAY						
1 *Rangers	30	11	3	1	28	9	9	2	4	37	18	65	+38
2 Celtic	31	13	2	1	46	7	5	6	4	31	20	62	+50
3 Kilmarnock	31	8	6	2	23	13	6	5	4	21	11	53	+20
4 St Johnstn	30	6	6	3	22	18	6	4	5	13	18	46	-1
5 Motherwell	31	6	5	5	19	22	2	5	8	12	22	34	-13
6 Aberdeen	31	5	4	6	20	28	4	3	9	16	30	34	-22
7 *Dundee	30	5	3	7	12	20	4	3	8	14	31	33	-25
8 Dundee Utd	30	2	7	5	12	17	6	1	9	21	20	32	-4
9 Hearts	31	6	2	8	21	25	1	6	8	8	22	29	-18
10 Dunfermline	31	4	6	5	14	23	0	9	7	9	25	27	-25

*Does not include last night's late match

FIRST DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Goal diff
	HOME						AWAY						
1 Hibernian	33	14	1	1	41	11	11	4	2	35	20	80	+45
2 Falkirk	33	9	5	3	28	16	10	1	5	29	17	63	+24
3 Ayr	32	7	4	5	36	21	10	1	5	23	16	56	+22
4 Airdrie	33	5	2	10	16	29	11	3	2	24	11	53	0
5 St Mirren	33	8	2	6	18	24	4	7	6	15	17	45	-8
6 G Morton	32	5	5	7	19	20	7	2	6	20	14	43	+5
7 Clydebank	31	4	6	4	13	12	5	7	5	17	20	40	-2
8 Raith	33	5	4	8	18	26	2	6	8	16	28	31	-20
9 Hamilton	33	3	5	8	12	22	3	5	9	17	35	28	-28
10 Stranraer	33	2	2	13	14	27	2	0	14	12	37	14	-38

SECOND DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Goal diff
	HOME						AWAY						
1 Livingston	33	12	4	1	28	9	8	6	2	32	22	70	+29
2 Inverness C	33	13	3	0	40	17	7	5	5	33	24	68	+32
3 Clyde	33	9	4	4	24	15	5	4	7	16	22	50	+3
4 Alloa	33	7	3	7	38	29	5	3	8	22	22	42	+9
5 Queen of S	33	6	7	3	22	14	5	1	11	22	28	41	+2
6 Arbroath	33	7	4	6	19	23	4	4	8	15	24	41	-13
7 Stirling	33	6	2	8	25	27	5	5	7	22	31	40	-11
8 Partick	33	6	4	7	17	19	5	2	9	14	21	39	-9
9 East Fife	33	6	3	7	19	28	5	3	9	19	30	39	-20
10 Forfar	33	5	3	8	27	31	2	4	11	17	35	28	-22

THIRD DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Goal diff
	HOME						AWAY						
1 Ross County	33	11	1	5	37	16	10	4	2	43	23	68	+41
2 Stenhsmuir	33	8	2	6	33	24	9	5	3	26	16	58	+19
3 Brechin	33	6	6	5	20	19	9	2	5	24	23	53	+2
4 Dumbarton	33	6	5	6	25	20	8	4	4	24	19	51	+10
5 Albion	33	5	4	7	22	31	7	4	6	21	25	44	-13
6 Berwick	33	6	3	8	24	26	4	10	2	21	21	43	-2
7 Queen's Pk	33	6	6	4	21	18	4	4	9	18	25	40	-4
8 East Stirling	33	4	9	3	26	20	5	3	9	23	25	39	+4
9 Montrose	33	5	4	7	23	26	3	2	12	15	39	30	-27
10 Cowdenbth	33	5	2	10	19	28	2	4	10	13	34	27	-30

NON-LEAGUE AND NATIONAL LEAGUES

UNIBOND

[illegible]

RYMAN

[illegible]

DR MARTENS

[illegible]

FA UMBRO TROPHY

[illegible]

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Barnstaple 1 Paulton 1; Bideford 0 Tiverton 6; Bridport 2 Mangotsfield 2; Calne 4 Bishop Sutton 2; Elmore 2 Melksham 2; Odd Down 0 Brislington 0; Taunton 3 Bristol Manor Farm 1; Westbury 0 Backwell 0; Chippenham 2 Barnstaple 0.

[illegible]

NATIONAL

[illegible]

GOALSCORERS

[illegible]

VERNONS LOTTERY FOOTBALL GAME

RESULTS FROM SATURDAY'S MATCHES: There were eight score draws: Charlton v Leeds; Southampton v Blackburn; Norwich v Tranmere; Stockport v Bristol City; West Brom v Portsmouth; York v Stoke; Arbroath v Livingston; Queen of South v Inverness Cal. Payouts on eight, seven, six and five score draws. Eight score draws: No winners Seven score draws: 7 winners each £8,279. Six score draws: 167 winners each £148.50. Five score draws: 2144 winners each £5.

POOLS CHECK

Rogers ensures that Wigan get Wembley glory



MILLWALL	0
WIGAN ATHLETIC	1

By Russell Kempson at Wembley

WHEN Millwall last graced Wembley, when admission cost *7s 6d* and the 90,000-strong crowd paid £26,000 to watch the 1945 League South final, Princess Elizabeth was an interested spectator. Whether she acclaimed Chelsea's 2-0 victory or commiserated with the Millwall hordes is not recorded.

What Queen Elizabeth, as she is now, might have made of the Auto Windscreens Shield final between Millwall and Wigan Athletic at Wembley yesterday will not be chronicled, either. An invitation was sent to Buckingham *Palace by a cheeky chappie from the* New Den, but Her Majesty politely declined. It was a wise decision.

Not until the closing stages did the afternoon spring to life, when the 47,000 Millwall supporters at last found a collective voice to outshout the 8,000 or so who had *made the* journey from Lancashire. But barely had they discovered their vocal chords than they were silenced by the winning goal in the third minute of injury time.

Liddell's handball went unnoticed in the build-up and, after Nethercott had headed weakly to the edge of the Millwall area, Rogers chested the *ball down and dispatched* a low shot past Roberts. The Wigan few erupted in delight and the multitude of stewards ringing the pitch rose as one in red alert in front of the Millwall masses. Their concern was unwarranted.

It had been a strange occa*sion, preceded by dire warn*ings that Wembley would be laid waste by the visit of Millwall's notorious followers. The Twin Towers would become the Single Tower, it was predicted, as the demolition of the Venue of Legends — due to start in August 2000 — began early.

The minute's silence to mark the tenth anniversary of Hillsborough may have been interrupted and cut short — some Wigan observers were disrespectful, too — but the atmosphere remained bubbly and upbeat. The Elephant and Castle had rocked to the strains of "No one likes us, we don't care" in the morning and shaven-headed, tattooed men, slugging from cans of cider, mingled playfully with children in lion's costumes.

Among the Wigan fans were members of the town's rugby *league club, the Warriors, who* have made Wembley a second home after ten appearances in the Challenge Cup final in the past 12 years. In lieu of their absence from it this time around, they joined their sporting cousins, with whom they will share a new £32 million stadium *next season.*

Dave Whelan, the wealthy owner of both Wigan clubs, was also making a nostalgic first trip to Wembley wearing his football hat, since he played for Blackburn Rovers against Wolverhampton Wan*derers in the 1960 FA Cup Final.* His afternoon had then ended prematurely, when he was carried off with a broken leg.

A dire first half may have erased all his pre-match optimism and perhaps made him *hunger for the oval ball, but* the game improved markedly after the interval. Penalty appeals came and went, in equal measure for each Nationwide League second division side, and Millwall almost went ahead when Harris prodded *the ball past Carroll, only for* Greenall to clear off the line.

Extra time and the golden goal loomed large until Rogers swung his left boot. He had known glory before, as a member of the Sutton United side that defeated Coventry *City in the 1989 FA Cup, and* welcomed its return.

"I had a swipe at the ball and that was it," Rogers said. "I'd had a shot ten minutes earlier and it nearly broke the scoreboard. This is much better than with Sutton. Of all the *places to play and places to* score, this is it." Wembley, decrepit old stadium that it is, will never lose its appeal.



Rogers raises his fists in celebration after scoring the decisive goal against Millwall. Photograph: Shaun Botterill/Allsport

'An invitation was sent to the Queen by a cheeky New Den chappie'

As the Millwall fans set off to drown their sorrows on the Old Kent Road, Ray Mathias, the Wigan manager, turned his attention to more sober matters. Wigan lie in eighth place in the second division and retain an outside chance of reaching the play-offs and a possible return to North London next month. "I was delighted to see the goal go in," he said. "Millwall made it hard, but I thought we played a bit better in the second half."

*Wigan, who won the compe*tition in 1985, when it was known as the Freight Rover Trophy, must return their attentions to the League when they play Northampton Town tomorrow night. "At the moment, the champagne is on ice," Mathias said. "We've got *to be good boys tonight and go* straight home."

MILLWALL (4-4-2): B Roberts — G Lavin, J Dolan, S Nethercott, J Stuart — P Ifill, R Newman, T Cahill, S Reid — R Sadlier, N Harris.
WIGAN ATHLETIC (3-4-3): R Carroll — P McGibbon, C Greenall, S Balmer — C Bradshaw, P Rogers, M O'Neill, K Sharp — A Liddell, S Barlow (sub: D Lee, 89min), S Haworth.
Referee: C Wilkes.

Bradford overture hits wrong notes

Bradford City	2
Huddersfield Town	3

By Kevin Eason

THE pre-match anthem that had Bradford City supporters throwing their heads back to sing along with *once popular pop diva, Yaz, clearly* failed to move Huddersfield Town's players. As Bradford fans chorused "*The Only Way is Up*", Huddersfield kept their heads down and planned the undoing of their Yorkshire neighbours at this crucial stage in their quest for promotion to the FA Carling Premiership.

Perhaps Huddersfield are a team of music-lovers. Whatever the reason, they were galvanized into resisting the initial onslaught of Bradford, including a goal after just eight minutes, to score three against the odds and then hang on for 45 minutes with ten men after *Steve Jenkins, their captain, was* sent off.

This game was ample evidence that the Premiership does not hold exclusive rights to football drama, with six bookings, the dismissal, five goals and a missed penalty ten minutes from time that could have helped Bradford to square this *game and claim a vital point.*

Paul Jewell, the Bradford manager, will single out his central defenders for special instruction at the training ground this morning. The number of times that Wayne Allison and Marcus Stewart combined to embarrass Darren Moore and Ashley Westwood through the middle of Bradford's defence was too many to count.

The start held only false promise as Bradford surged forward on their wave of disco-inspired passion to be rewarded by a simply Route One goal: Gary Walsh, the goalkeeper, humped the ball forward, Mills headed on and Blake stabbed the ball home.

But as Bradford pressed forward, there was precious little cover for their central defenders, allowing Huddersfield to target Allison and Stewart. The result was three Huddersfield goals in 14 minutes and a Bradford team more confused than crestfallen. As the ten*sion rose, so the tackles became* more rash, though the departure of Jenkins, for squaring up to Peter Beagrie, looked more posturing than threat.

However, it changed the complexion of the game, with Hudderfield spending the second half in two ranks defending their penalty area and Bradford pinging in cross after cross. There was one goal to come in the 72nd minute, although it was no more than consolation for Bradford and Dean Windass, the scorer, who missed the penalty seven minutes later.

Jewell could barely believe it. The promotion chase is still on, but losing hurt, especially as the beating was adminstered by Bradford's gloating neighbours.

BRADFORD CITY (4-4-2): G Walsh — W Jacobs, D Moore, A Westwood, S Wright (sub: G Watson, 63min) — P Beagrie, S McCall, G Whalley (sub: D Windass, 70), L Sharpe — R Blake, L Mills.
HUDDERSFIELD TOWN (4-4-2): N Vaesen — S Jenkins, C Armstrong, S Collins, J Vincent — L Richardson, R Edwards, B Thornley (sub: J Dyson 44), S Baldry — M Stewart, W Allison.
Referee: M Pierce

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE

Wolves' perfect timing

Birmingham City	0
Wolverhampton Wanderers	1

By Richard Hobson

IF SUNDERLAND acknowledge the need to strengthen a side that is by some distance the best in the Na*tionwide League to survive* at a higher level, then what does that say for the prospects of those who join them in the FA Carling Premiership?

Birmingham City have featured *in the top six of the first division* for all except four weeks of the season. Wolverhampton Wanderers, *with one defeat in 17 league games* — away to Sunderland — have timed their progress to arrive at the play-offs in the best of form.

Both have smart, improved grounds, wealthy benefactors and *loyal supporters who cling still to* the misguided belief that they are following a "big" club. Yet you fear for either should promotion materialise next month.

They have to get there first. With Ipswich Town and Sunderland providing the last pair of opponents, Birmingham might be grateful for a five-point cushion over Watford. "I think we have given great encouragement to the teams around us, but we are near the end and the others are still behind," Trevor Francis, the Birmingham manager, said.

Wolves, too, face a testing run-in against Bolton Wanderers, Grimsby Town and Bradford City, as well as the Black Country derby against West Bromwich Albion next Sunday. Steve Bull is fit for the remaining games and the precocious Robbie Keane has re*turned from the world youth cham*pionships in Nigeria.

Little separated the sides at St Andrew's on Saturday in a game that might also be described as a personal triumph for Colin Lee, the Wolves manager, whose contract expires at the end of the season.

In asking Steve Corica to operate behind Flo, he caught Birmingham by surprise and, although the home side created more chances, they never quite came to terms with the little man from Australia.

The goal, Corica's first since November 1996, was a beauty. Interchanging passes with Carl Robinson in each half, he scythed through the Birmingham midfield before meeting a cleverly-disguised reverse ball from Emblen with a firm, low shot. Breaching a well-marshalled defence that had conceded just three goals in the previous seven games always seemed to be beyond Birmingham thereafter.

Richards and Curle presented a solid barrier while Stowell proved a competent figure as he passed Bert Williams's club record of 421 appearances for a goalkeeper. Bradbury shaved the bar in the 76th minute, the promising Hughes slotted wide and, when Johnson's header beat Stowell, Gilkes was on the line to turn it away.

BIRMINGHAM CITY (4-4-2): K Poole — G Rowett, D Holdsworth, M Johnson (sub: S Robinson, 66min), M Grainger — J McCarthy, M O'Connor, G Hyde (sub: D Wassall, 84), B Hughes — D Adebola, P Ndlovu (sub: L Bradbury, 66)
WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS (4-4-1-1): M Stowell — K Muscat, D Richards, K Curle, M Gilkes — N Emblen, C Robinson, S Sedgley, P Simpson — S Corica — H Flo (sub: S Bull, 86)
Referee: B Knight.



Steve Sedgley relieves the pressure on the hard-pressed Wolves defence

Gudjohnsen gives own masterclass

Bolton Wanderers	2
Ipswich Town	0

By Martin Woods

PLAYING your way out of the Nationwide League first division requires not only touch, finesse and *luck, but your players need also* a certain muscularity to do justice to their will to win. It is the kind of robustness that Ronaldo possesses and it helps your cause considerably if your centre forward has enjoyed the benefit of a few masterclasses from the Brazilian prodigy.

Eidur Gudjohnsen can play foot*ball, at times, like Ronaldo.* Bolton's Icelandic No 9 played with the Brazil striker at PSV Eindhoven before an ankle broken playing for his national under-21 team kept him out for two seasons and led indirectly to his arrival at the Reebok Stadium on a free transfer last year.

"The boy has got talent for a 20-year-old," Colin Todd, the Bolton's manager, said and, for most of this match, he embarrassed Ipswich. He created the first goal in the 37th minute with a 60-yard run after Thetis, the Ipswich full back, was dispossessed by Frandsen, who passed to Gudjohnsen. The blond striker raced away into the heart of the Ipswich defence before forcing Richard Wright, the goalkeeper, to parry his fierce shot only as far as Bob Taylor, whose shot from a seemingly impossible angle went in off Wright.

Gudjohansen is no Ronaldo and it was not quite in the Ryan Giggs class, but the *sheer audacity* of his brilliant solo run marks him out as a fine prospect.

His goal, halfway through the second half, was inevitable, given his burgeoning confidence and Ipswich's flawed response to their first-half deficit.

The decision of George Burley, *their manager, to play three at the* back and throw caution to the wind in pursuit of three points was exposed as naïve and could yet cost his side a place in the FA Carling Premiership. On this form, they would not wish to meet Bolton in the play-offs.

Gudjohansen struck in the 68th *minute after another Ipswich* attack broke down on the left. Jensen broke away and found Frandsen in support. The Denmark Under-21 player had time to find Gardner on the left, who looked up to see Gudjohnsen starting his run into the box. His pass was precise and invited the delicious strike that Gudjohnsen provided to beat Wright.

Ipswich did hit the woodwork once in each half, but Johnson and Scowcroft were made to look ordinary by Bergsson and *Fish in the* centre of defence.

"We did have a bit of an indifferent spell, but it's how you come out of it and I'm just hoping now that we've turned the corner," Todd said.

BOLTON WANDERERS (4-4-2): S Banks — N Cox, G Bergsson, M Fish (sub: P Warhurst, 71min), J Phillips — M Johansen, C Jensen, P Fransen, R Gardner — E Gudjohnsen (sub: B Hansen, 90), B Taylor
IPSWICH TOWN (4-4-2): R Wright — J Clapham, A Mowbray, M Venus, M Thetis — B Petta (sub: K Dyer, 46 min), J Magilton, M Holland, M Stockwell (sub: R Naylor, 73) — D Johnson, J Scowcroft
Referee: K Lynch

Watford close in on play-off spot

Crewe Alexandra	0
Watford	1

By A Correspondent

IT IS obvious that old habits *die hard for Graham Taylor,* the Watford manager, as his team continue to stalk the play-off contenders in the Nationwide League first division.

His doctrine that the best form of defence is attack inspired a previous Vicarage Road dynasty to football's highest level nearly 20 years ago, although there were murmours of discontent among purists regarding their robust and direct route to the top. The Watford that defeated Crewe Alexandra at Gresty Road has lost none of its sense of purpose, but has perhaps added poise as it strives to emulate past glories.

Steve Palmer, the Watford central defender, is evidence of that modern style on and off the field of play. There was a composed performance, another clean sheet and some articulate words from the Cambridge University graduate.

"It's a case of catch-up now after our season was in danger of petering out altogether," Palmer said. "We've adopted a more attacking basis and are going out to win games. So far, so good and things appear to be working out." The return trip to the region to play Port Vale tomorrow night will further test Watford's resurgence, which has earned them four successive wins.

Tommy Mooney, Watford's versatile striker, scored his third goal in as many games when he made the most of *Crewe's defensive frailties* inside their own penalty area and struck a vicious, left-footed drive beyond Kearton, the goalkeeper, in the 24th minute.

In the final second, another spectacular shot from Mooney's rebounded down off the crossbar, denying the visitors a second goal that would have represented a fairer reflection on the game, according to Taylor.

Nevertheless, Crewe did have their moments, as they attempt to lift themselves off the bottom of the table. Murphy, on loan from Liverpool, displayed glimpses of Premiership quality, but an errant finish just before half-time exemplified the prodigal nature of his side's touch when it mattered most.

CREWE ALEXANDRA (4-4-3): J Kearton — D Wright, D Walton, S MacAuley, S Smith — J Wright (sub: M Newell, 68min), P Charnock, S Johnson — M Rivers, D Murphy, R Jack.
WATFORD (4-4-3): A Chamberlain — D Bazeley, S Palmer, R Page, P Robinson — M Hyde, A Bonnot, P Kennedy — N Wright (sub. A Hazan, 90), G Wittingham (sub: M Ngonge, 78), T Mooney
Referee: W Burns.

Tankard delivers relief for Horton

Port Vale	1
Oxford United	0

By Nick Szczepanik

BRIAN HORTON, the Port Vale manager, has never experienced relegation and this result suggests that he is not about to start now. With four games to play, Vale have moved three points clear of the Nationwide League first division relegation zone and, thanks in part to five signings made by Horton before the *transfer deadline* in March, have put together an unbeaten run at exactly the right time.

Oxford United, who Horton managed for five years, are not so fortunate. With no money to spend, they began the match above their opponents on goals scored, but ended up dropping below not only Vale but also Bury, who beat them a week ago, into the bottom three: with only three games to play, they must be considered likely to stay there.

"Win all three and you never know," Les Robinson, the captain, said afterwards, but *to manage that, Oxford would* have to do something twice that they had not managed once since March 9, namely score at home, against Norwich City and then Stockport County.

Oxford have done better on their recent travels, but are *likely to find Bradford City* determined opponents at the Pulse Stadium in a fortnight and seldom threatened to take the lead at a sodden Vale Park on Saturday.

Only after Allen Tankard put Vale ahead in the 55th minute, his mishit volley from *Dave Brammer's corner tak*ing a nasty hop off the surface before looping into the top far corner, did they take the game to the home side. Then, with four men up and urged on by 2,000 supporters, many bussed in free of charge, they staged a grandstand finish, only for Andy Thomson to volley their best chance over the *crossbar from five yards.*

The new stand that is being built will provide even more vacant places at Vale Park, half-empty as usual, despite the importance of the game, but at least they will still have the large travelling support enjoyed by many first division clubs to fill their away end next season. The cramped precincts of the Manor Ground one fears, will be quite adequate for Oxford's needs in the *second.*

PORT VALE (4-4-2): P Musselwhite — S Talbot, N Aspin, P Beesley, A Tankard — R Eyre, T Widdrington, D Brammer, A Smith (sub: M Bent, 81min) — A Lee, A Rougier
OXFORD UNITED (4-4-2): P Lundin — L Robinson, M Watson, P Gilchrist, P Powell — J Beauchamp (sub: A Thomson 61), M Gray, P Tait, N Banger (sub: S Weatherstone 65) — K Francis, M Murphy
Referee: M Fletcher

City blossom in the garden

Gillingham	0
Manchester City	2

By Bill Edgar

TO MANCHESTER City's supporters, the footballing backwater of Kent was once merely the last part of their journey to European matches. Now, not only have passport control at *Dover and Folke*stone become distant memories, but the fans have the indignity of realising that the county has become a destination in itself.

City struggled initially this season to come to terms with clubs such as Gillingham, but it seems that they are now well over their culture shock. Having lost only one of their previous 20 games, the visitors made their first league visit to the Garden of England on Saturday and came up smelling of roses.

*Gillingham had been un*beaten at Priestfield Stadium since early September and performed well enough to give City cause for concern should the two teams meet again in the second division play-offs. "We've played better and not won," Joe Royle, the City manager, said.

It was Royle's switch from a 4-4-2 formation to 3-5-2 after 15 minutes that turned the game. Terry Cooke, a winger, adapted well at wing back and opened the scoring in the 31st minute when his 25-yard volley took a deflection. Cooke joined City permanently on Friday after a £1 million transfer from Manchester United.

Horlock added to Cooke's goal in the 64th minute with a free kick and although Robert Taylor and Mark Saunders *brought fine saves from Nicky* Weaver, the visiting goalkeeper, Gillingham were unable to reduce the arrears.

The home side's lack of depth is underlined by the fact that both their reserves and youth team are bottom of their respective leagues. If City and not Gillingham, gain promotion, it may be some time before their supporters need to locate Kent again.

GILLINGHAM (3-5-2): V Bartram — B Ashby, A Pennock, G Butters (sub: D Carr, 69min) — K Brown (sub: J Hodge, 56), P Smith, A Hessenthaler, M Saunders, M Patterson — C Asaba, R Taylor
MANCHESTER CITY (4-4-2): N Weaver — L Crooks, G Wiekens, A Morrison, A Vaughan — T Cooke, M Brown (sub: J Whitley, 67), I Fisher, K Horlock — S Goater, P Dickov (sub: G Taylor, 80).
Referee: R Styles

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL

Smart books dream date at Wembley

GARY SMART, 35, came off the bench to score the winning goal and complete a fine comeback that saw Forest Green Rovers beat St Albans City 3-2 at The Lawn yesterday to clinch a place in the FA Umbro Trophy final against Kingstonian at Wembley on May 15 (Walter Gammie writes).

After the 1-1 draw in the first leg, St Albans took a 3-1 aggregate lead thanks to an own goal by Mike Kilgour and a strike by the prolific Steve Clark. Alex Sykes reduced the arrears for Forest Green just before half-time, and Ian Hedges (74min) and Smart (81min) won the match in the second half.

The sharp skills of Geoff Pitcher had set up Kingstonian's 3-1 win at Cheltenham Town on Saturday. A free kick and two crosses by Pitcher supplied the goals for Matt Crossley, David Leworthy and Gary Patterson that ensured a return to Wembley for Geoff Chapple, the Kingstonian manager.

Patterson's strike snuffed out the glimmer of hope offered Cheltenham when Neil Grayson made it 2-1 in the 78th minute.

Burrows laments profligacy

Cardiff City	0
Swansea City	0

By Bill Edgar

AS INSIDER knowledge goes, it was hard to beat. Former Swansea City personnel can be found at Cardiff City in the form of the manager, his assistant, one of the physios and four players, three of whom were in action yesterday. Yet, try as they might, they were unable to work out how to breach their local rivals' defence and gain reward for their clear superiority.

Cardiff went close a dozen times to finding the goal that would have taken them to the top of the Nationwide League third division, eight of those scoring opportunities arriving in the final 20 minutes. In contrast, Swansea were restricted to a few long-range efforts on goal and failed to force Seamus Kelly, the Cardiff goalkeeper, into a save.

"Today there was only one team in it," Frank Burrows, the Cardiff manager, said, "but because of poor technique and poor finishing, we didn't convert any of our chances." It was Cardiff's eighth draw in 13 games, but, six points clear of the play-off zone, they are still strong favourites to go up.

Burrows, one of five men to manage both of these bitter rivals, knows only too well the reason for the noon start to this match. Unlike in some recent seasons, away supporters were allowed to attend the fixture and trouble was averted near the end of this game through the use of police dogs. Swansea managed two decent shots by Matt Bound near half-time that flew just over the bar, but the defender spent much of the second half keeping the home side at bay.

In injury time, Bound cleared off the line from Danny Hill and the draw keeps Swansea on course for the play-offs, through which they were promoted from this level in 1988. One of the teams to go up automatically that year was Cardiff, managed, in his first spell there, by Burrows.

CARDIFF CITY (3-5-2): S Kelly — J Eckhardt, G Mitchell, M Ford — W O Sullivan (sub. D Hill, 65 min), C Middleton, M Bonner, J Fowler, A Legg — K Nugent, J Williams (sub: J Bowen, 78)
SWANSEA CITY (3-5-2): R Freestone — S Jones, J Smith, M Bound, — R Appleby, K O'Leary, M Thomas (sub: A Bird, 87), N Cusack, J Coates — S Watkin (sub: D Lacey, 19), J Alsop
Referee: S Bennett

ALLIED DUNBAR PREMIERSHIP

Running repairs leave Leicester on track for title

Leicester	25
Saracens	18

BY DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

LONDON'S marathon may have been completed yesterday, but Leicester, having hit the wall at Bath, are still dragging their tired bodies to within touching distance of the Allied Dunbar Premiership title. The run-in will probably *extend into May, but victory* over Saracens at Welford Road on Saturday has left them needing three points from their three remaining games, all against the pride of the North.

There will be no frills to the climax, either. Leicester admit that they have not played well in the second half of the season, but they have kept winning, always the hallmark of champions. They have done so not only on the back of, well, *Neil Back and his internation*al forward colleagues, but on the ability of such lesser lights as Jon Stuart and Derek Jelley to come into the team and fit *into the abrasive*, committed pattern that rewarded a crowd of more than 14,000 on Saturday.

That Saracens matched them for commitment in defence was much to the Watford club's credit, the only sour *note* being struck in the closing moments, when Roberto Grau, the Argentinian prop, butted Craig Joiner. The two had been involved in a tussle off the ball until the frustrated Grau used his head — in the wrong sense — with Leicester already the recipients of a penalty. *Chris White, who refe*reed the game with admirable economy, decided that fault lay on both sides and did no more than upbraid the pair.

It has been a harrowing three weeks for Saracens since they lost so heavily at home to Bath, a match that Mark *Evans, their director of rugby,* described as the nadir of their season. They have reviewed their playing squad — three Australians have been released and other players will follow. Injuries have also hit hard: Paul Wallace, scheduled for a groin operation next Fri*day that will terminate his sea*son, hauled himself into the fray as a replacement after David Flatman went down with food poisoning. However, neither Kyran Bracken nor Paddy Johns have written themselves out of the script before the season ends, not with *European qualification still in* the melting-pot.

"We didn't leak soft points, we made Leicester work hard for their win," Evans said — and so they did. Indeed, Saracens, when they moved the ball wide, looked the more dangerous, but they could not find a way through the blanket of the Leicester defence.

When so many tackles are made, even the best fall back *upon their goalkickers and nei*ther Tim Stimpson nor Gavin Johnson let their sides down. The two full backs matched each other with six penalty goals, but Stimpson had the additional satisfaction of creating the opportunity from which came the only try, *Leicester's hundredth in all* competitions this season.

His brave catch, amid a huddle of bodies, inadvertently removed Rob Thirlby from the action and gave Pat Howard the chance to send Stuart running into space. The Loughborough student found Leon *Lloyd with his pass; by that* time, the Saracens defence had lost its shape and Martin Corry had the strength to drive over for the score that, effectively, made the difference.

Considering how much time Leicester spent in the Saracens *half after the interval, their 6-3* deficit in that period was a cause for concern. Austin Healey's return to action after suspension was, though, significant: he was full of bounce, *finding space where others* could not, and he may have Joel Stransky back before the month is out. The South African's knee is still troubling him, but, if their first-choice half backs are in place, Leicester could yet conclude the season in style.

SCORERS: Leicester: *Try:* Corry (22min) **Conversion:** Stimpson **Penalty goals:** Stimpson 6 (8, 10, 18, 30, 38, 68) **Saracens: Penalty goals:** Johnson 6 (4, 13, 20, 26, 53, 79)
SCORING SEQUENCE (Leicester first): 0-3, 3-3, 6-3, 6-6, 9-6, 9-9, 16-9, 16-12, 19-12, 22-12 (half-time), 22-15, 25-15, 25-18.
LEICESTER: T Stimpson; L Lloyd, C Joiner, J Stuart, D Lougheed; P Howard, J Hamilton (rep: A Healey, 40min); G Rowntree (rep: D Jelley, 66), R Cockerill (rep. D West, 66), D Garforth, M Johnson, F van Heerden, L Moody, N Back, M Corry
SARACENS: G Johnson; R Thirlby, R Constable, K Sorrell, B Daniel (rep: J Thomson, 70), A Penaud, M Olsen (rep: M Powell, 70). R Grau, G Chuter, B Reidy (rep: P Wallace, 68), K Chesney, C Yandell (rep. K Roche, 84). *R Hill, F Pienaar (rep: B Cole, 56-59, 70)*, A Diprose.
Referee: C White (Gloucestershire)

Saracens in contest for Luger's talents

HARLEQUINS remain hopeful that Dan Luger will sign a new contract, despite reports linking him with a move next *season to Saracens (David* Hands writes). Luger, an England wing in seven of eight internationals this season, has made himself a prime target with a series of good displays, which have brought him four tries for his country.

"We have made it clear to *Dan that we want him to* stay," John Gallagher, the director of rugby at Harlequins, where Luger has been since 1996, said yesterday. "We have offered him a new contract and hopefully we can persuade him to stay. We expect a decision fairly soon from him or his representative."

The two clubs meet next *Sunday with European quali*fication an issue between them and also a determining factor for players out of contract and seeking a move. Luger, 24, will seek to play in the highest available domestic competition next season, after the completion of the World *Cup in November, where he* is certain to appear in the England squad.

Wasps have confirmed that John Mitchell, England's assistant coach, has joined their staff after leaving Sale.



Tuigamala attempts to get the ball away as he is brought to ground in the defeat by Wasps yesterday

Nature of defeat gives Newcastle bitter aftertaste

Wasps	34
Newcastle Falcons	33

BY DAVID HANDS

THIS season still has the capacity to surprise and after *the dust had settled at Loftus* Road yesterday on a riveting match, Wasps had moved into the top five of the Allied Dunbar Premiership. In contrast, Newcastle were looking at the *ruin of their European hopes* and the loss of Rob Andrew.

Andrew left the field clutching a dislocated shoulder after trying in vain to stop the forward rumble that gave Wasps their third try and a match-winning conversion for Alex King. The former England fly *half will have an X-ray on his* shoulder today and is virtually certain to miss the Tetley's Bitter Cup final against Wasps on May 15.

The taste in Newcastle mouths was even more bitter for the belief that refereeing errors led directly to two of the *Wasps tries. The first, by Mar*tyn Wood, came after the match officials had apparently missed the deflection of a clearing kick off a Wasps hand before Newcastle players were given offside.

The second was for a charge by Va'aiga Tuigamala on *Gareth Rees that was* ruled dangerously high.

From both penalties, Wasps were able to create the pressure from which their tries developed. The decisive one, by Darren Molloy, came after Newcastle had been penalised twice and Gary Armstrong, their captain, had been sin-binned for killing the ball. Sensibly throwing a long pass to Lawrence Dallaglio, Wasps surged infield and near enough to the posts to make the conversion a formality. Defeat keeps Newcastle in eighth place and severely reduces their prospect of a money-spinning run in the European Cup next season.

Amid all the controversy there was some outstanding rugby, notably from Josh *Lewsey. His try*, the first of the match, gave Wasps an advantage that they relinquished when Tuigamala appeared to be held five metres out, only for Wasps to leave the burly Samoan free to score on the stroke of half-time.

Tuigamala twisted the *screw* even tighter five minutes into the second half. Rees hesitated in collecting a kick from Armstrong, Underwood swooped and Doddie Weir *dispatched* a long pass to Tuigamala on the left.

Wasps offered an immediate response, despite Andrew's vehement protests when Robin Goodliffe decided the first of the critical penalty awards in Wasps' favour. Wood dotted down the try after his forwards had provided the platform and when King added a penalty and a dropped goal, the London *side were back in front.*

Only for six minutes. Jim Naylor hit a brilliant attacking line on halfway and although *Lewsey* was back to *tackle, Jonny* Wilkinson arrived just in time to accept the pass and sprint to the posts. But Newcastle could not exert sufficient control and Tuigamala's tackle on Rees conceded vital ground. That there were four minutes left after Molloy's try was immaterial. With only 14 men and their tactical director gone, Newcastle's bolt was shot.

SCORERS: Wasps: Tries: Lewsey (28min), Wood (49), Molloy (83). **Conversions:** King 2. **Penalty goals:** King 4 (10, 20, 38, 57). **Dropped goal:** King (65). **Newcastle Falcons: Tries:** Tuigamala 2 (40, 45), Wilkinson (71) **Conversions:** Wilkinson 3. **Penalty goals:** Wilkinson 4 (5, 17, 36, 43)
SCORING SEQUENCE (Wasps first): 0-3, 3-3, 3-6, 6-6, 13-6, 13-9, 16-9, 16-16 (half-time), 16-19, 16-26, 21-26, 24-26, 27-26, 27-33, 34-33.
WASPS: G Rees (rep: J Ufton, 80min); J Lewsey, F Waters, M Denney, P Sampson; A King, M Wood, D Molloy, T Leota, W Green, A Reed (rep: J Beardshaw, 38-40, 51), S Shaw, L Dallaglio, P Volley, J Worsley (rep: E Rollitt, 40-47).
NEWCASTLE FALCONS: S Legg; T Underwood (rep: J Naylor, 59), M Shaw, J Wilkinson, V Tuigamala, R Andrew (rep: P Massey, 83), G Armstrong (sin-bin 80); G Graham, R Nesdale, M Hurter, G Archer, G Weir, P Walton, R Arnold, R Beattie.
Referee: R Goodliffe (Yorkshire).

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Va'a saves Richmond with late decider

West Hartlepool	35
Richmond	36

BY ROY KELLY

ONE down and one to go. Richmond cleared the first hurdle of their North East double successfully — but only just. *Earl Va'a*, the fly half, secured the points, with his fifth penalty goal, from in front of the West Hartlepool posts, with less than four minutes left to claim victory.

Minutes earlier, Steven Vile had put West ahead for the first and only time in the match. His penalty kick in the 74th minute brought him a match total of 30 points. Richmond responded instantly and when *Stewart Piercy, the refe*ree, awarded them a contentious penalty, Va'a put the kick over with some comfort.

Richmond scored the only try in the first half, when Va'a played Jason Wright, the centre, into space and he galloped clear. Otherwise, the scoring *was left to the two place-kick*ers, Va'a landing four penalties from five attempts for Richmond, with Vile successful with three for West.

After the break, West looked more determined and took full advantage of Richmond being *down to 14 men* — after Dan *McFarland* had been *sin*binned — when Mike Mullins was driven over for a converted try to pull the match level.

*Richmond scored two well*taken tries through Lee Best, the full back, and Barry Williams, the hooker, to lead 33-25 at the end of the third quarter.

Then Vile made his mark on the contest with a try and the subsequent conversion, and when he landed his seventh penalty six minutes from time, West looked on the verge of a giant-killing act — only for Va'a to snatch victory.

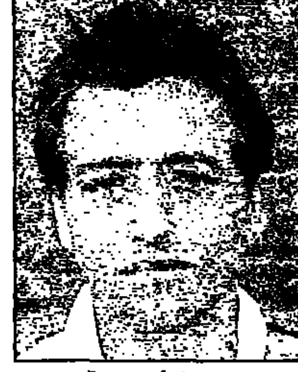
SCORERS: West Hartlepool: Tries: Mullins (44min), Vile (70). **Conversions:** Vile 2 (44, 70). **Penalty goals:** Vile 7 (16, 30, 34, 43, 54, 56, 74). **Richmond: Tries:** Wright (14), Best (49), Williams (60) **Conversions:** Va'a (14, 49, 60) **Penalty goals:** Va'a 5 (10, 18, 28, 40, 76).
SCORING SEQUENCE (West Hartlepool first): 0-3, 0-10, 3-10, 3-13, 3-16, 6-16, 9-16, 9-19 (half-time), 12-19, 19-19, 19-26, 22-26, 25-26, 25-33, 32-33, 35-33, 35-36
WEST HARTLEPOOL: E Farrell (rep: G MacLure, 20min); T Handley, M Mullins, J Connolly (rep: P Greaves, 38), S John, S Vile, T Nu'ualiitia, S Sparks, S McDonald, P Beal (rep: K Foune, 50), D Hyde, P Farner, J Ponton, D Monkley, M Brewer
RICHMOND: L Best, N Walne, A Bateman J Wright, S Brown; E Va'a, A Moore, D McFarland (sinbin, 43-53; rep: M Fitzgerald 61-66), B Williams, D Crompton, D Quinn (sinbin, 34-44, rep. Fitzgerald, 44-54), B Cusack, C Gillies, J Barlow, B Clarke
Referee: S Piercy (Yorkshire)

European target remains a distant one for Harlequins

Harlequins	29
Bedford	16

BY MARK BALDWIN

JOHN GALLAGHER, the Harlequins director of rugby, has set his club the task of winning five of their last six league games to ensure European Cup competition at The Stoop Memorial Ground next season. However, the former All Black has also given his players a stark message: if they keep performing like they did against Bedford, then they will have as much chance of reaching Europe as a cross Channel swimmer setting out from Dover and turning sharp right.



Luger: late try

Talking of swimming, Gallagher plans a session in a local pool as part of his team's preparation for the visit to West Hartlepool on Wednesday. "I might just drown a few while we are there," he said.

"This was our worst performance of the season. In the first half, we were tactically inept. It was very difficult for me to watch and it must have *been for our supporters too.* No one is smiling in our dressing-room and we all have a lot of hard work to do if we want to get into Europe. I think we can afford only one defeat from here on in.

"I said to Rudi Straeuli [the Bedford coach] that we didn't deserve to win — although *that was no consolation, of* course, to him."

Straeuli blamed poor decision-making in the final ten minutes for the latest in a long line of Bedford near-misses. With five minutes remaining, and with Harlequins struggling to hold a 17-16 lead, Bedford chose to instruct Tony Yapp, the fly half, to go for goal when a penalty was awarded wide on the right. Yapp had landed the conversion of Rory Underwood's 45th-minute try from a similar position, but a squally shower had blown in from behind the Harlequins posts.

In injury time, two mistakes from the otherwise impressive Dan Harris gifted late tries to Daren O'Leary and Jamie Williams for Harlequins. Indeed, Harlequins fashioned just one coherent movement in the whole game. The introduction of Keith Wood and Zinzan Brooke brought some order and a series of destructive scrums led to a try for Dan Luger, the subject of rumours of a move to Saracens.

SCORERS: Harlequins: Tries: Luger (63min), O'Leary (80), Williams (80) **Conversion:** Schuster **Penalty goals:** Schuster 4 (2, 14, 20, 75) **Bedford: Try:** Underwood (45) **Conversion:** Yapp **Penalty goals:** Yapp 3 (6, 35, 65)
SCORING SEQUENCE (Harlequins first): 3-0, 3-3, 6-3, 9-3, 9-6 (half-time), 9-13, 14-13, 14-16, 17-16, 24-16, 29-16
HARLEQUINS: J Williams; D O'Leary, W Carling (rep: P Mensah, 59min), J Schuster, D Luger; T Lacroix, H Harries (rep: C Wright, 46); D Barnes, C Ridgway (rep: K Wood, 52), G Halpin (rep: A Yates, 71), G Llewellyn, G Morgan, W Davison (rep: Z Brooke, 59), R Jenkins, A Leach
BEDFORD: S Stewart; R Underwood (rep: B Whetstone, 80), A Murdoch, D Harris, D O'Mahony; A Yapp, C Harrison; A Olver, J Richards, C Boyd, S Murray, A Duke, P Elphick, J Forster, R Winters
Referee: C Reeks (Somerset).

Northampton ready to extend field of dreams

Northampton	44
London Scottish	13

BY ALAN PEAREY

IT LOOKS too late to stop Leicester winning the Allied Dunbar Premiership, but second-placed Northampton are already dreaming of a greater prize. "We'll be a force against anyone in Europe if we play like that," Ian *McGeechan, the club's director of rug*by, said. "The 15 minutes after halftime were special. Northampton were seen as a pretty side — now we're becoming a ruthless side. We've put the club where it's never been."

McGeechan will not concede the title to Leicester but may feel that their poor new year form on a glue-pot of a surface — "what has improved New Zealand rugby most is quality of pitches," he said — will cost Northampton their first significant trophy. His spirits have been lifted by some devastating late-season form, with the defeat of London Scottish at Franklin's Gardens on Saturday taking Northampton's try haul to 17 in three games.

Nick Beal had already had a try disallowed when he swooped for the opening score after 23 minutes and a three-try, ten-minute burst after half-time took the game way beyond the *Exiles' reach.*

Pat Lam, also denied a score by the referee's whistle and felled brilliantly by Simon Fenn with the line beckoning, gained his reward at the third time of asking a minute from the end. It was Lam's twelfth league try of the season, putting him equal first with Steve Hanley, the injured Sale injured wing.

The presence of men like Lam, Tim Rodber and Federico Méndez gives the Northampton pack a menacing look not matched by a less experienced threequarter line. Accordingly, they *are seeking a world-class centre and* wing for next season.

Scottish are not yet safe from relegation and the spectre looms of a play-off with Bristol, who have a holding in Scottish's professional club. Extraordinarily, they would approach such a meeting knowing that, while defeat would mean relegation, victory might mean that the West Country club would take them over and leave Scottish without a team at all.

SCORERS: Northampton: Tries: Beal (23min), Pountney 2 (42, 48), Moir (52), Lam (79), Dawson (80). **Conversions:** A Hepher 4. **Penalty goals:** A Hepher 2 (14, 31). **London Scottish:** *Try:* McAusland (64) **Conversion:** De Beer. **Penalty goals:** De Beer 2 (2, 45).
SCORING SEQUENCE (Northampton first): 0-3, 3-3, 10-3, 13-3 (half-time), 20-3, 20-6, 27-6, 32-6, 32-13, 37-13, 44-13
NORTHAMPTON: N Beal, C Moir, A Northey (rep: D Dantiacq, 52min), N Allen (rep: A Blyth, 79), B Cohen, A Hepher, M Dawson, M Volland (rep. M Hynes, 40), *F Méndez*, M Stewart (rep: C Johnson, 64), J Phillips, T Rodber (rep: S Hepher, 58) G Seely, A Pountney, P Lam.
LONDON SCOTTISH: S Binns (rep: I McAusland, 40); K Milligan, J Bonney, R Eriksson, C Sharman (rep: J Philip, 40), J de Beer, G Easterby; P Johnstone, D Rudham (rep: D Cummins, 65), P Burnell, E Jones, M Watson (rep: G Manson-Bishop, 65), S Fenn, S Holmes, R Hunter (rep: T Davies, 65)
Referee: C Rees (London).

Bath overwhelmed by London Irish flourish

London Irish	47
Bath	22

BY MARK SOUSTER

TWO Ireland internationls, one former, the other present, stood on the sidelines at Sunbury, watching the quality of this performance no doubt with similar emotions. Malcolm O'Kelly, who will not play again for the club *because of injury and his decision to re*turn to Ireland this summer, questioned whether he had done the right thing. Simon Geoghegan, who is still registered with Bath but is a former Exiles favourite, confirmed that he will not play senior rugby again.

O'Kelly hinted that his decision to rejoin St Mary's on an Irish Rugby Football Union *contract had been prompt*ed by the lack of a firm offer from London Irish. Dick Best, the club's director of rugby described O'Kelly's departure as a huge loss.

It was London Irish's first league victory over Bath in ten attempts and did their hopes of qualifying for Europe a power of good. They are now third with 28 points, but *have only two re*maining games.

In the meantime, Best will continue his trawl for recruits, concentrating where possible on British or, preferably, *Irish talent.* Conor O'Shea, who's try in the second minute opened the floodgates and who contributed 17 points in all, may have been the only Irishman in the side, but the support showed that the club will always be a social focus for the Irish community in the capital.

Having seen Bath shred Saracens, London Irish, who were quicker to the breakdown, concentrated on aggressive defence in the build-up to the game and it worked. They were in Bath's face from the kick-off and knocked them out *of their stride, prompting a rash of mis*takes and turnovers from which the home side prospered. Brendan Venter was the catalyst, either popping up at fly half or in his usual position at centre, but the support cast must not be overlooked. Robert Todd, doing a passable imitation of Va'aiga Tuigamala, helped himself to three tries while Burrows, *Berridge and Hardwick also* crossed as Bath failed to live with the pace.

SCORERS: London Irish: Tries: Todd 3 (30min, 51, 61) O'Shea (2), Hardwick (9), Berridge (16), Burrows (49) **Conversions:** O'Shea 3 **Penalty goals:** O'Shea 2 (12, 58). **Bath: Tries:** Tindall (40), Catt (53), Regan (68) **Conversions:** Catt 2 **Penalty goals:** Catt 6
SCORING SEQUENCE (London Irish first): 5-0, 5-3, 10-3, 13-3, 20-3, 25-3, 25-10 (half-time), 32-10, 37-10, 37-17, 40-17, 47-17, 47-22.
LONDON IRISH: C O'Shea, S Berridge, N Burrows, B Venter, R Todd, S Bachop (rep: J Brown, 75min), P Richards (rep: K Campbell, 79), P Rogers (rep: N Hatley, 54), R Kirke, R Hardwick, M Bird (rep: I Feaunati, 71), N Harvey, J Boer, R Gallacher, R Strudwick.
BATH: M Perry (rep: T Adebayo, 79), I Balshaw, K Maggs, M Tindall, A Adebayo; M Catt, G Cooper (rep: A Nicol, 40) D Hilton (rep: K Yates, 40), M Regan, V Ubogu, M Haag (rep: B Sturnham, 40), S Borthwick, R Earnshaw, R Bryan, D Lyle
Referee: B Campsall (Yorkshire)

Class divide proves too wide for Cross Keys

Swansea..........60
Cross Keys..........3

By Gerald Davies

SWANSEA went farther than Cardiff, their fellow rebels, by reaching the final of the SWALEC Cup at Ninian Park on May 15. Their opponents will be Llanelli, who, incredibly, overcame Cardiff on Saturday and will be making their fourteenth appearance in the final, which they have managed to win on ten occasions.

Cross Keys were not a true match for Swansea yesterday at Sardis Road, Pontypridd, and the contest accentuated the difference between a leading club and one from a division below. It did not take long for Swansea to register the first points. Cross Keys had not even visited their opponents' half before Mark Taylor found space from a long pas by Arwel Thomas to make a break. Thrusting aside a couple of tackles, the centre managed to make it to the line.

A dropped goal by David Rees gave Cross Keys some hope, even though this was cancelled out by the first of two penalty goals from Thomas.

The next points did not come for another 20 minutes, a spell ended by a confident break by Thomas from his own half, the kind of break that is so typical of the player, which saw him cut through the defence from his own ten-metre line and should have extended the Swansea lead. Instead, having taken everybody by surprise, he ran out of support, but the movement did establish the pattern. Four tries came in quick succession in the next ten minutes, three of them to Matthew Robinson.

The first came from nothing so creative as the run by Thomas. An error by Rees in loose play saw Robinson latch on to the stray ball to run in for the score. The next one was beautifully initiated by a three-quarter movement in their own half and a timely underhanded pass by Taylor to David Weatherley behind the back of his opposite number. Robinson outstripped the cover defence over 60 metres.

Swansea were now in rampant mood, with Thomas only offering a rare kick for relief. Both the try scored by Richard Rees and the third of Robinson's tries were initiated deep within their own half and were examples, at this stage, of Swansea's attacking mood.

Cross Keys offered some enterprise of their own, but the difference in speed, power and organisation of their opponents was noticeable. The closest that Cross Keys came was in the second half, when Bebb and Bushell contrived a brilliant move out of defence but were denied a try by Robinson's last-ditch tackle.

Swansea confirmed their superiority with further scores in the second period, but they failed to achieve the same fluidity and their tries lacked the panache of the early stages.

Llanelli, who have won the Welsh knockout cup ten times, were comfortable winners over Cardiff in the other SWALEC Cup semi-final at the Brewery Field, Bridgend on Saturday. Byron Hayward, the Llanelli fly half, kicked 24 points in an ill-tempered contest that pitted the Welsh league leaders against one of the "rebel" clubs.

SCORERS: Swansea: Tries: Taylor (5min), Robinson 3 (27, 28, 39), Rees 2 (37, 56), Maullin (65); D Thomas (74). Conversions: A Thomas 5, Davies 2. Penalty goals: A Thomas 2 (9, 43). Cross Keys: Dropped goal: Rees (8).

SCORING SEQUENCE (Swansea first): 7-0, 7-3, 10-3, 17-3, 24-3, 31-3, 38-3 (half time), 41-3, 46-3, 53-3, 60-3.

SWANSEA: D Weatherley; R Rees, M Taylor (rep: C van Rensberg, 55min), S Gibbs, M Robinson, A Thomas (rep: L Davies, 63), R Jones (rep: A Booth, 72); D Morris, G Jenkins (rep: C Wells, 58), B Evans (rep: C Anthony, 55); J Griffiths, A Moore (rep: J Baier, 70), D Thomas, T Maullin, P Moriarty

CROSS KEYS: I Bebb, J Vernall (rep: S Crane, 32), S Reed (rep: G Cooper, 64), C Bushell, R Nicholls; D Rees, C Ellis (rep: T Walsh, 40); I Evans (rep: G Stroud, 40), L Gardner (rep: L Davies, 68), D Cimmins, M Price, N Kelly (rep: S Llewellyn, 68), J Powell (rep: E Lewis, 40), S Gardner, P Watkins

Referee: D Bevan (Clydach)

Kenricks boost Aldwinians

Aldwinians..........21
Dudley-Kingswinford..........10

By Barry Trowbridge

EVEN to the point of refusing to send on replacements simply to fulfil a lifetime's dream of playing at Twickenham, Aldwinians' professional approach to the NPI Cup final was the outstanding feature on Saturday as what should have been a rousing finale to the season for junior clubs became little more than a damp squib.

With a squad moulded over the past three seasons by Mike Kenrick, a past captain of Lancashire and Sale, Aldwinians, from Manchester, defied the role of underdogs by two divisions and squeezed the life from Dudley-Kingswinford.

Inevitably, Kenrick, a 48th-minute substitute at No 8, influenced his men's performance, but, in front of him, Paul, his younger brother by ten years, was as good as anybody on the field, including Dean Schofield, his partner in the second row, who scored what proved to be the game's two decisive tries.

With promotion from North West I to North II still to be confirmed, Aldwinians' season has some way to run, but doubtless that did not detract from the celebrations at London Welsh's ground in Richmond, especially as Billericay, who had earlier won the Tetley's Bitter Vase final to complete a league and cup double, joined them there to unwind.

In an equally uninspiring game, Billericay saw off Silhillians, from Solihull, 19-3, the critical score being Kevin Harman's fourth penalty goal, the only points in the second half, which put his team two scores clear with 11 minutes left.

SCORERS: Aldwinians: Tries: Schofield 2 (46min, 49). Conversion: M Jackson. Penalty goals: M Jackson 3 (5, 27, 80). Dudley-Kingswinford: Try: Tipper (43). Conversion: E Smith. Penalty goal: E Smith (33).

SCORING SEQUENCE (Aldwinians first): 3-0, 6-0, 6-3 (half-time), 6-10, 11-10, 18-10, 21-10.

ALDWINIANS: T Crossman; J Hampson, N Hyde, M Woodward, R Skaife, M Jackson, J Openshaw; H Stelmaszak, S Graham, P Donbavand, P Kenrick, D Schofield, C Rushworth, C Jackson, S Brown (rep: M Kenrick, 48min)

DUDLEY-KINGSWINFORD: A Grosvenor (rep: M Halstead, 59), W Port, P Whiting (rep: M Wilson, 51), A Hart, P Baker (rep: R Port, 41); E Smith, S Perry; C Evans (rep: A Atterbury, 78), M Davies (rep: R Smith, 73), M Lockley, J MacRae (rep: W Millard, 65), G Tipper, N Shillingford, I Langford, B Connell


Robinson, of Reading, is just off target after beating Cadman, the Southgate goalkeeper

HOCKEY

Southgate frustrated by Mason's defiance

By Sydney Friskin

THE English Hockey League Premiership play-offs ended at Reading yesterday with the home side defeating Southgate 4-2 to join Cannock, the holders, in the final at Milton Keynes on May 3. Cannock had qualified on Saturday with a hard-earned 1-0 victory over Southgate.

Reading, who had beaten Canterbury 8-2 on Saturday, encountered stiffer opposition from Southgate, who levelled the scores in the eighteenth minute with a well taken goal by Woods after Robinson had given Reading the lead from a short corner eight minutes earlier.

Although Southgate claimed the initiative at the start of the second half they fell behind in the 45th minute when Hoskin put Reading 2-1 ahead. Three spectacular saves by Mason denied Southgate a goal from short corners before Reading went into a 4-1 lead with goals by Loose and Robinson. Two minutes before the end, Williams converted a short corner for Southgate.

The Cannock v Southgate match on Saturday should have produced more than one goal, but on the balance of play Cannock deserved to win. When Sharpe scored in the 62nd minute from a scrambled short corner he atoned for an earlier miss by Crutchley, who failed to beat McKewan, the substitute Southgate goalkeeper. Southgate, who survived a determined attack in the first 20 minutes of play, came more into contention in the latter part of the first half and early in the second, but could not contain Cannock's late onslaught.

They came close to equalising from a short corner in the dying seconds but the final push by Simons went astray. Midway through the first half, Cannock had lost Pidcock, their centre half, who was carried off with a broken knee cap.

Canterbury were still in with a chance when they trailed Reading 4-2 at half-time, but Reading added four more in the second half. Pearn and Robinson each scored three times in the game.

Culliford shoots Clifton to final

By Cathy Harris

TWO late goals in a seven-minute spell by Lucy Culliford helped Clifton to recover from being 2-0 down and beat Ipswich 4-2 in the play-offs at Reading yesterday and clinch a place in the EHL Premiership final against Slough, the defending champions.

Slough qualified for the final on May 3 thanks to two successful penalty corners by Ali Burd, which enabled them to beat Ipswich 2-1 and qualify automatically for the inaugural final in the new play-off system.

Ipswich made the perfect start against Clifton, who had beaten Hightown 2-1 on Saturday, when Vicki Sandall glanced in a free hit by Sandie Lister in the third minute. Sarah Bamfield put them in the driving seat with a superbly-struck second goal just before the interval.

However, Clifton hit back quickly after the restart when Tammy Miller set up Juliet Rayden to reduce the deficit. Culliford proceeded to level the scores seven minutes later when she stole in to nudge home Denise Marston-Smith's shot, following up after a corner.

As Ipswich fell apart, Culliford was on target again to put her team ahead in the 59th minute and Marston-Smith made sure of victory eight minutes from time.

One-day jazz falls on deaf ears

John Stern sees rain and apathy foil the marketing men's best efforts

TO Michael Kasprowicz, the Leicestershire and Australia seam bowler, the business of giving teams nicknames and playing music as players walk out to bat is old hat. Kasprowicz, who had the dubious pleasure of playing in the opening fixture of the new 45-over, two-division CGU National League at a sodden Grace Road on Saturday, seems bemused that people are in such a lather about the jazzing up of English cricket.

Kasprowicz has been a Queensland Bull for about four years and, as far as he is concerned, that is just the way modern cricket is, like it or lump it. "A few feathers were ruffled, but it did give the game some profile and the way it's discussed now is the Bulls v the Redbacks rather than Queensland v South Australia," he said.

Kasprowicz believes that anything that might bring a few more people through the turnstiles is worth a try. In fact, anything that creates some sort of atmosphere and makes the players feel that they are participating in something worthwhile is likely to be roundly applauded by all professionals on this moribund circuit.

What he could not answer is whether it is possible to sell domestic cricket to an apathetic public when the national team, the only area of cricket that has genuine profile, is so unsuccessful. "The success of the national side has a direct influence on the popularity of the game in Australia," he said. "I guess people see certain players doing well and it is a case of coming to watch your heroes." Yet despite Australia's status as the best side in the world, hardly anyone watches first-class domestic cricket there, although crowds are better for the one-day competition.

Atmosphere was sadly lacking at Grace Road for three reasons. The weather was wretched, Leicester's rugby team were playing at home and few people appear to care about the county champions. There can have been no more than 1,000 in the ground.

The only point of note in the match itself was the first "free hit" in county cricket. When John Stephenson, of Hampshire Hawks, bowled a no-ball in the 32nd over, Dominic Williamson, of Leicestershire Foxes, was allowed a free hit at the next ball without the threat of dismissal, unless he was run out. He stepped away to leg and carved Stephenson past Keech to the third-man boundary.

The conditions made for one-day cricket at its limpest. Leicestershire scrambled to 152 for seven off 40 overs and Hampshire's chase of an adjusted target had barely begun before another downpour arrived.

Middlesex get off to winning start

By Pat Gibson

LORD'S (Middlesex Crusaders won toss): Middlesex (4pts) beat Nottinghamshire Outlaws by 62 runs

THE thinking behind Mike Roseberry's return to Middlesex after four unfulfilling and, at times, distressing seasons with his native Durham is that batting with the prolific Australian Justin Langer could be just as beneficial to him as partnering the great West Indian Desmond Haynes used to be.

It seemed a reasonable proposition yesterday when Roseberry, who averaged 13 in the Axa League last year, joined Langer in a second-wicket partnership of 131 to set up victory for Middlesex in the first CGU National Cricket League game to be played at Lord's.

Lord's being Lord's, there were no fairground swings and roundabouts, no rodeo rides or bouncy castles to herald the new era trumpeted by the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB). Nor was there much sign of the younger element they are trying to attract.

Instead a fairly typical gathering of a thousand or so hardy souls shivered in the pale April sunshine watching a fairly typical Sunday contest that suggested that the Middlesex Crusaders have more chance of escaping from the second division than the Nottinghamshire Outlaws.

It was effectively decided by Roseberry and Langer after Weekes had sliced Drakes to backward point. Langer made 71 off 76 balls to take his aggregate to 545 in his past five innings; Roseberry scored 64.

The Middlesex total of 239 for six always seemed to be too many for Nottinghamshire once Fraser had removed Welton and Gallian. Johnson put a brave face on it with 57 from 67 balls and Drakes and Read somehow scored 59 in nine overs in the dark — another of the problems that the ECB should have foreseen when it decided to play 45-over matches in April.

Hollioake inspires Durham collapse

By Richard Hobson

CHESTER-LE-STREET (Surrey Lions won toss): Surrey Lions (4pts) beat Durham Dynamos by two runs (D/L method)

DURHAM, requiring four runs for victory in the final over with three wickets in hand, contrived to make a losing start to the CGU National League. Adam Hollioake held his nerve to bowl the final over and, with panic spreading through the home ranks, Lewis and Brown were run out and Killeen caught at mid-off.

Surrey have been installed as favourites to win promotion despite propping up the Axa League in its final season. The fact that Durham finished immediately above them did not augur well for the quality of this first meeting in the new format and a sparse crowd evidently needed some convincing that English cricket had entered "a new era".

There seemed to be remarkably little difference between this and many other one-day matches to have gone before. A reduction from 45 to 26 overs per side because of a hailstorm ensured even more frantic hitting than usual.

Surrey, 52 for one when rain stopped play, scored briskly thereafter in between a steady flow of wickets and Ben Hollioake, whose 45 from 33 balls included four sixes, three of them in succession against Collingwood, gave the innings extra impetus before becoming the middle of Phillips's three wickets.

Adam Hollioake, attempting to rediscover his form ahead of the World Cup after a poor England tour of Sharjah, lasted just three balls when Speight took a fine diving catch to his right off the bowling of Wood.

The total of 175 for seven was extended by 14 under the Duckworth-Lewis system and appeared to be sufficient when Tudor removed Morris and Collingwood with successive balls in his second over. However, Boon kept Durham in the game with 55 from 39 balls.

SCOREBOARDS

Saturday

PPP county championship

Warwickshire v Northamptonshire

EDGBASTON (final day of four). Warwickshire (9pts) drew with Northamptonshire (8)

WARWICKSHIRE: First Innings 323 (D R Brown 142, D L Hemp 64, D E Malcolm 6 for 116)

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE: First Innings 167 for 6 (G Welch 5 for 47)

Umpires: M J Kitchen and A G T Whitehead

CGU National League

First division

Leicestershire Foxes v Hampshire Hawks

LEICESTER (Leicestershire Foxes won toss). No result. Leicestershire Foxes (2pts) Hampshire Hawks (2)

LEICESTERSHIRE FOXES

*V J Wells c Renshaw b Morris	5
D L Maddy lbw b Mascarenhas	29
I J Sutcliffe c White b McLean	0
B F Smith c Aymes b Mascarenhas	33
C C Lewis c Aymes b Udal	16
A Habib not out	33
†P A Nixon c and b Udal	0
D Williamson b Mascarenhas	17
J M Dakin not out	0
Extras (b 3, lb 2, w 12, nb 2)	19
Total (7 wkts, 40 overs)	**152**

M S Kasprowicz and T J Mason did not bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-7, 2-9, 3-69, 4-72, 5-99, 6-100, 7-152.

BOWLING: McLean 7-1-34-1, Morris 6-0-24-1, Mascarenhas 9-2-23-3, Renshaw 8-1-25-0, Stephenson 5-0-24-0, Udal 5-0-17-2

HAMPSHIRE HAWKS

G W White lbw b Kasprowicz	0
J P Stephenson c Nixon b Lewis	2
*R A Smith not out	6
†A N Aymes not out	6
Extras (w 3)	3
Total (2 wkts, 5.3 overs)	**17**

M Keech, D A Kenway, A D Mascarenhas, S D Udal, N A M McLean, A C Morris and S J Renshaw did not bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-1, 2-11

BOWLING: Kasprowicz 3-0-10-1, Lewis 2.3-0-7-1

Umpires: A Clarkson and B Leadbeater.

University match

Cambridge University v Somerset

FENNER'S (final day of three). Cambridge University drew with Somerset

SOMERSET: First Innings 338 for 1 dec (P D Bowler 140 not out, J Cox 139)

Second Innings

P C L Holloway retired hurt	62
M E Trescothick lbw b Halsall	26
M Burns lbw b Halsall	24
†R J Turner c Pyemont b Danson	79
G D Rose not out	48
Extras (b 12, lb 2, w 6, nb 2)	22
Total (3 wkts dec)	**261**

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-36, 2-103, 3-261

BOWLING: Pimlott 10-1-18-0, Halsall 16-1-65-2, Sayers 17-3-64-0, Loveridge 12-2-37-0, Walker 10-1-31-0, Hughes 5-0-27-0, Danson 2.3-0-5-1

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY: First Innings 247 for 4 dec (I Mohammed 110, Q J Hughes 55 not out)

Second Innings

J P Pyemont b Bulbeck	5
I Mohammed not out	18
G R Loveridge c Kerr b Burns	4
*Q J Hughes not out	1
Extras (lb 1)	1
Total (2 wkts)	**29**

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-8, 2-17

BOWLING: Bulbeck 8-2-17-1, Burns 7-4-11-1

Umpires: A A Jones and N G Cowley

Yesterday

CGU National League

Second division

Durham Dynamos v Surrey Lions

CHESTER-LE-STREET (Surrey Lions won toss): Surrey Lions beat Durham Dynamos by two runs (D/L method)

SURREY LIONS

*M A Butcher lbw b Killeen	26
A D Brown c and b Brown	15
I J Ward st Speight b Phillips	27
A J Hollioake c Speight b Wood	0
B C Hollioake st Speight b Phillips	45
N Shahid c Collingwood b Phillips	24
G P Butcher not out	13
A J Tudor b Wood	0
M P Bicknell not out	1
Extras (lb 8, w 11, nb 5)	24
Total (7 wkts, 26 overs)	**175**

†J N Batty and J E Benjamin did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-24, 2-67, 3-70, 4-103, 5-158, 6-166, 7-168.

BOWLING: Betts 5-0-20-0, Brown 5-0-30-1, Wood 6-0-39-2, Killeen 3-0-13-1, Phillips 5-0-30-3, Collingwood 2-0-35-0

DURHAM DYNAMOS

*D C Boon b Benjamin	55
J E Morris c G P Butcher b Tudor	4
P D Collingwood c Benjamin b Tudor	0
J A Daley lbw b A J Hollioake	41
†M P Speight run out	33
J J B Lewis run out	23
M M Betts b B C Hollioake	6
N C Phillips run out	0
J Wood not out	4
N Killeen c Shahid b A J Hollioake	0
S J E Brown run out	0
Extras (b 1, lb 11, w 6, nb 2)	20
Total (25.4 overs)	**186**

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-22, 2-28, 3-78, 4-138, 5-170, 6-180, 7-181, 8-186, 9-186

BOWLING: Bicknell 6-0-24-0, Tudor 5-0-48-2, Benjamin 4-0-25-1, M A Butcher 3-0-22-0, A J Hollioake 4.4-0-33-2, Shahid 1-0-9-0, B C Hollioake 2-0-13-1

Umpires: G Sharp and R A White.

Middlesex Crusaders v Nottinghamshire Outlaws

LORD'S (Middlesex Crusaders won toss). Middlesex Crusaders beat Nottinghamshire Outlaws by 62 runs

MIDDLESEX CRUSADERS

P N Weekes c Wharf b Drakes	11
M A Roseberry c Johnson b Dowman	64
J L Langer c Wharf b Drakes	71
*M R Ramprakash b Franks	12
O A Shah c Read b Stemp	0
†D C Nash not out	22
K P Dutch run out	16
J P Hewitt not out	4
Extras (lb 15, w 16, nb 8)	39
Total (6 wkts, 45 overs)	**239**

S J Cook, A R C Fraser and C J Batt did not bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-33, 2-164, 3-171, 4-173, 5-209, 6-233

BOWLING: Drakes 9-1-33-2, Franks 9-1-38-1, Wharf 9-0-54-0, Gallian 4-0-30-0, Dowman 5-0-26-1, Stemp 9-0-43-1

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE OUTLAWS

G E Welton c Nash b Fraser	7
R T Robinson c Cook b Hewitt	29
*J E R Gallian c Ramprakash b Fraser	2
P Johnson lbw b Weekes	57
N A Gie lbw b Batt	1
M P Dowman lbw b Hewitt	3
P J Franks lbw b Weekes	10
†C M W Read st Nash b Weekes	22
V C Drakes not out	39
A G Wharf c Fraser b Weekes	0
R D Stemp c Fraser b Dutch	2
Extras (lb 4, w 1)	5
Total (44.1 overs)	**177**

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-10, 2-16, 3-72, 4-75, 5-90, 6-112, 7-113, 8-172, 9-172

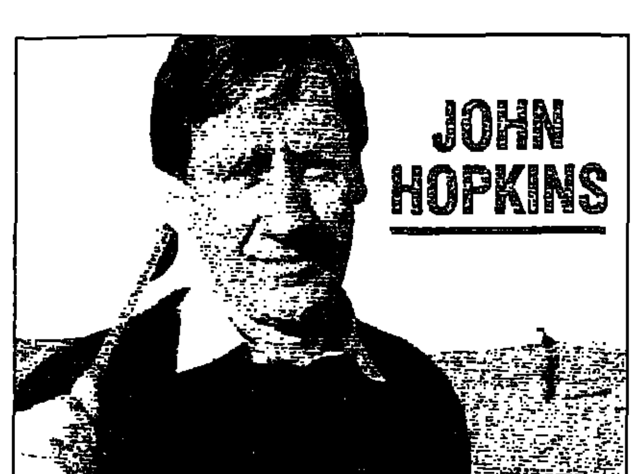
BOWLING: Fraser 9-3-23-2, Cook 9-3-31-0, Batt 8-0-31-1, Hewitt 9-0-45-2, Weekes 9-0-43-4, Dutch 0.1-0-0-1

Umpires: D J Constant and V A Holder

NO PLAY: First division: Canterbury (Lancashire Lightning won toss): Kent Spitfires v Lancashire Lightning. Both teams awarded 2pts

MONDAY MATTERS

Spanish eyes twinkle anew



It is not exactly heavy lifting to visit Spain at any time and it would be a pleasure to be in Barcelona this week. This has nothing to do with a desire to visit Gaudi's cathedral or to take a *leisurely stroll down the* Ramblas. Besides, I prefer the cathedral in Majorca. The attraction of Spain's second city this week concerns celebratory events to do with José Maria Olazábal and Sergio García.

Though Severiano Ballesteros has said that he is recognised and appreciated more in the United Kingdom than in his native country, it is hard to imagine Catalonia being anything other than *en fête* this week when Olazábal returns to competitive play in the Spanish Open after his triumph in the Masters, and when García, who had been the leading amateur in Augusta, turns professional on Wednesday.

For Spain to have the winner and the leading amateur in the Masters in the same year is a remarkable double. The day when this happened was arguably the greatest day in Spain's golfing history, exceeding Ballesteros's first triumph in the Open Championship and the Masters, in 1979 and 1980 respectively, greater than Olazábal's first victory in the Masters, in 1994, and greater even than Europe winning the first Ryder Cup to be staged in Spain, a team captained by Ballesteros, in 1997.

Never mind Olazábal's iron play, his wonderful chipping and putting, I have enormous admiration for his character and dignity and the week before the Masters it was instructive to see him around the hotel where he, Sergio Gomez, *his manager, and* Maitie, Gomez's wife, were staying. At breakfast-time one morning, Olazábal playfully pretended to strangle Maitie; at other times, the three of them did a mock conga together as they came back to the hotel after dinner. They looked like two doting parents with their eldest son.

In the hotel, an unshaven Olazábal appeared relaxed and charming. This did not stop me wondering then, as I had at other times since he had returned from his absence with foot problems, *later diagnosed as a lower* back injury, whether he had made some Faustian deal with the Almighty — give me my health back and in return I will accept a diminution of my skills?

Such thoughts have been swept away by the manner in which he played at Augusta. Discovering that regaining his health is a greater gift than regaining his golf has helped him to play better. He remains the worst driver among the world's leading professionals, but he is less hard on himself now. Gone are some of the furies that used to beset him when a three-iron from 220 yards would end a few feet from its intended target, or an 18-foot curling putt would not disappear into the hole.

His calmness and resolution on his way to his second green jacket could hardly have been improved upon. Now, indeed, he might become only the second golfer in the game's history to win more major championships *after a serious illness than* before. Ben Hogan had three major championships to his credit when he was nearly killed in a car accident in February 1949. Despite being told he might never walk again, he recovered and won six more.

García turning professional this week will strike a chord *in the memory because the* hoop-la surrounding this event will be reminiscent of that which surrounded Justin Rose, a young Englishman who quit the amateur ranks immediately after finishing joint-fourth in the Open last July. There the similarities end, though.

García's career has been monitored and controlled more closely than the economy. Talk about being booted and spurred for *professionalism: in the past* six years, he has competed in nearly 30 professional tournaments, 13 of them in 1998, when he missed only one halfway cut. He has won 37 and lost only two matchplay matches since 1997. In short, *he has answered every chal*lenge that has been put to him, the most recent being to overtake Tom McKnight, the losing finalist in the 1998 US Amateur Championship, who led him by two strokes after 54 holes at Augusta, and so be*come the leading amateur.* This was the final flourish of a brilliant amateur career.

Even then, though, it was said that he would turn professional only if all his sponsorship deals and contracts were put in place last week. "We learnt our lesson from Justin," José Marquina, who describes himself as García's unofficial manager, said. "We want Sergio to be able to concentrate on playing golf as a professional from the moment he turns pro." Clearly, that has happened and García starts a new phase of his life in a well-ordered fashion.

This is in contrast to Justin Rose, *for whom it seems to* have gone wrong. While García's progress has seemed to be pre-ordained, Rose's has appeared rushed and unplanned. He turned professional before his 18th birthday when he had not won many *amateur events and he had no* contracts in place. As is obvious now that he has failed to advance to the third and fourth rounds of all 17 events in which he has competed as a professional, there were flaws in his swing that were not evident when he was an amateur but have been exposed by the professional game.

"Our decision to take Justin to professional golf was very amateur compared with García," Ken Rose, Justin's father and main adviser, said. "Our three-year plan for him *to get into the pro ranks was* thrown awry by what happened at the Open. When we decided in March last year that Justin was going to turn professional, we had no control over what happened in the Open.

"*In March, we did not feel* that Justin had any profile. We thought we would let him go and play. We had no commercial arrangements in place when the decision was taken. We thought we would learn it on the hoof. We just *went with the flow.* Obviously, we did not know the Open was going to happen."

When one remembers the level of national pride that Rose generated last summer, it is a shame that he has had such troubles since. One hopes they will be resolved. For García, there seem to be no such doubts. This is a week to celebrate. Olazábal is back on his feet, hallelujah; García has the world at his.

'For Spain to have the winner and the leading amateur in the same year is remarkable'


García and Olazábal's outstanding double at Augusta provided Spanish golf with arguably the proudest day in its history. Photograph: Gary Hershorn

THIS WEEK IN THE TIMES

TOMORROW
Have Arsenal kept pace with the leaders in the race for the FA Carling Premiership title? And Dennis Wise hears his fate over that bite.

WEDNESDAY
The Times FA Youth Cup approaches its climax. News of Everton, the holders, in action against West Ham United in the first leg of the semi-finals.

THURSDAY
Did Manchester United reach their second European Cup final? And can Chelsea oust talented Real Mallorca from the Cup Winners' Cup?

FRIDAY
Detailed assessment from our writers of the England squad selected by Kevin Keegan for the international against Hungary in Budapest.

SATURDAY
The wit of Robert Elms, the observations of Frank Leboeuf and snooker's world championship goes into its latter stages at the Crucible

TELEVISION HIGHLIGHTS

TURIN is the next stop for Manchester United in their quest for a unique treble of European Cup, league championship and FA Cup. The first-named is the priority as they bid to emulate Charlton, Best and Co in the team of 1968 and mighty Juventus stand in their way in the European Cup semi-final. United have never won a European tie in Italy and viewers can see if they are able to wipe that unwanted distinction from the memory banks **(ITV, Wednesday, 7.30pm)**.

JOHN HIGGINS hopes to claim a slice of history in the Embassy world snooker championship that, in time-honoured tradition, saturates the screen. He is attempting to become the only first-time winner to retain the title. Messrs Hendry and O'Sullivan may have something to say about it **(BBC1, BBC2, daily, various times)**.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

In the qualifying round of the Forbo Teams Tournament the Dutch Senior team faced China, winners of the four-way international event. The Seniors were not impressed, and scored a fine victory, whitewashing their opponents.

Loek Verhees handled *this Three No-Trumps carefully to* score a game swing:

Dealer South **Game all** **Teams**

North: ♠ K Q 8 5 2 ♡ J 4 ◇ A 3 ♣ Q 9 6 4

West: ♠ 10 9 7 6 3 ♡ Q 9 8 6 5 ◇ K 10 ♣ A

East: ♠ – ♡ 10 3 ◇ Q J 8 4 2 ♣ K J 10 8 7 3

South: ♠ A J 4 ♡ A K 7 2 ◇ 9 7 6 5 ♣ 5 2

W	N	E	S
–	–	–	1 D
Pass	1 S	Pass	1 NT
Pass	3 C	Pass	3 S
Pass	3 NT	All Pass	

Contract: Three No-Trumps by South. Lead: six of hearts.

North-South did well to bid to Three No-Trumps rather than the doomed Four Spades which has little chance even on a normal trump break (the defenders just play trumps at every available opportunity).

Verhees received a friendly heart lead won by the jack in *dummy as East followed with* a small card, leaving West in doubt as to who held the ten. It now looked as if declarer has nine top tricks, but when East showed out on the ace of spades Verhees needed an endplay against West in *order to succeed.*

He continued with a small club to strip West of his minor-suit exit cards. West took his ace of clubs and switched to the king of diamonds, ducked, and another diamond (a second heart would have worked out far better – the play gets complex but if West had played a second heart, the defence can arrange to avoid the endplays by West unblocking his king of diamonds under the ace).

Verhees won the ace of diamonds on the second round, crossed to the jack of spades and led a spade towards dummy, forcing West to split his 10-9. Three rounds of hearts followed, and West was endplayed: he could cash one more heart but then had *to lead a spade into dummy's* K-8; nine tricks made.

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.



BY RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

New move

The Indian grandmaster, Viswanathan Anand, for some time considered the most likely challenger to Garry Kasparov's world title, has suffered an extraordinary slump in the elite tournament at Dos Hermanas in Spain. In today's game, Anand could consider himself more than fortunate to escape with a draw after an opening surprise by his opponent left him with an utterly lost position. Even in the final position, White could still have played on for a win.

White: Peter Svidler
Black: Viswanathan Anand
Dos Hermanas 1999

Ruy Lopez

1	e4	e5
2	Nf3	Nc6
3	Bb5	a6
4	Ba4	Nf6
5	0-0	Nxe4
6	d4	b5
7	Bb3	d5
8	dxe5	Be6
9	Nbd2	Nc5
10	c3	d4
11	Ng5	Bd5
12	Nxf7	Kxf7
13	Qf3+	Ke6
14	Qg4+	Ke7
15	e6	Bxe6
16	Re1	Qd7
17	Bxe6	Nxe6
18	Nf3	Re8
19	Ng5	Ncd8
20	Bd2	h6
21	Nf3	Qd5
22	Re5	Qd6
23	cxd4	h5
24	Qe4	Kf7
25	d5	Kg8
26	Qg6	Re7
27	Rae1	Nd4
28	Qxd6	Nxf3+
29	gxf3	cxd6
30	Rxe7	Bxe7
31	Rxe7	Nf7
32	Ra7	h4
33	Ra8+	Kh7
34	Rxa6	Kg6
35	Rb6	Rc8
36	Rxb5	Rc2
37	Bc3	h3
38	Kf1	Ng5
39	Rb7	Nxf3
40	Rxg7+	Kf5
41	Rg3	Ke4
42	Rxh3	Rc1+
43	Ke2	Rxc3
44	bxc3	Ng1+
45	Kf1	Nxh3
46	a4	Kxd5
47	Kg2	Ng5
48	h4	Ne4
49	h5	Ke6
50	c4	Nd2
51	a5	Nxc4
52	a6	Nb6
53	a7	Kf5
54	f4	Na8
55	Kf3	d5
56	Ke3	Nc7
57	Kd2	Kf6
58	Kc2	Kf5
59	Kb3	d4
60	Kc4	Kf6
61	Kd3	Kf5
62	Ke2	Kf6
63	Kf2	Kf5
64	Kf3	Na8
65	Ke2	Nc7
66	Kd3	Kf6
67	Ke4	Kf7
68	f5	Kf6
69	h6	Kf7

Draw agreed

Diagram of final position

8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1
a b c d e f g h

☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

TERRIEN
a. Type of earthenware
b. A rough country pâté
c. Worldly

UREDO
a. An Alpine shrub
b. Blight
c. Giddiness

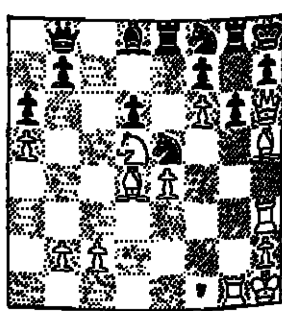
TURKIN
a. A language
b. Cambridge Blue
c. Related by marriage

TALMA
a. A cloak
b. A card game
c. A hat

Answers on page 48

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene



White to play. This position is from the game Garcia — Sasikiran, Ubeda 1999.

Although Black is doing his best to defend his kingside, White's concentration of force in that sector now proved too hot to handle. How did White continue?

Solution on page 48

Fans' criticism of United a bit rich

Matt Dickinson says that anger over moves to tighten the Old Trafford purse strings is misplaced

For the crime of sharing a beer with Martin Edwards in a bar in Lodz late last year, the punishment was to be threatened with a bottle in the face. "How can you buy a drink for that traitor," the Manchester United fan snarled, his San Miguel brandished ever closer. In the best journalistic traditions, I made my excuses and left.

The drinking holes will be out of bounds once again this week as the lynch mob reconvenes in even greater numbers in Turin. Some of the fans are on the warpath again and the United chairman, as much as the Juventus supporters, is at the top of their list.

His crime, apart from becoming chairman in the first place, was to say that there will be no money available to Alex Ferguson this summer beyond that needed to replace Peter Schmeichel. "With spending £44 million over the next two seasons developing the ground to a capacity of 67,000 and also on the new training complex at Carrington there will be no more spending like last year [when £28 million purchased Jaap Stam, Dwight Yorke and Jesper Blomqvist]," Edwards said. "We have to make sure we do not go heavily into the red. It is not a bottomless pit, that is the reality of it." Cue howls of outrage.

The criticism will be nothing new to Edwards, who hears little else, and there is no doubt that his timing could have been better. The club has just been named the richest in the world, with a turnover in 1997 of £87.94 million, and supporters want to look forward to the second leg of their European Cup semi-final against Juventus on Wednesday rather than hear tales of hard times. But it has reached the stage where the criticism of Edwards is as demented as the *Manchester Evening News* poll that demanded Ferguson be fired a year after securing the Double in 1994.

It is a fact of life that supporters share no more affinity with a club's board than they do with their bank manager — the responsibility to be prudent makes both appear killjoys — but Edwards is facing a barrage *of abuse that goes beyond reason* and it is time that the fans acknowledged their good fortune instead.

If their greatest desire is to see the best players coached by the best manager while they sit in the best ground in the country, then surely they are wallowing in the riches of Croesus at Old Trafford. And the man who has made it possible, if not through his own abilities then through astute delegation, is Edwards.

It was the supporters, after all, who wanted Ferguson dumped in 1989, when the club was underachieving, and it was Edwards who, with the advice of his board, ensured that he stayed. The chairman has probably not been patted on the back too many times for that. "Sack him," they cried again when Ince, Hughes and Kanchelskis *were sold, but, mercifully, sanity* prevalied among the directors.

It is the way of supporters that they want everything both ways, never more so than when it comes to Old Trafford financing. They want the club to be hugely successful, which Edwards ensured by launching it on the Stock Exchange, and yet they also want it run by some kindly benefactor with a bottomless pit of cash. Life, except at Ewood Park, is not like that. Those supporters conveniently ignore the fact that many of them were hardly rushing to put their funds into the club when the first share issue was met by an underwhelming response. So much for putting your money where your mouth is.

Hindsight is a wonderful thing for those with axes to grind, so *Edwards is still criticised for the* proposed sale to Michael Knighton for £10 million a decade ago, never mind that it was Knighton, rather than Edwards, who was seen as the screwball at the time. Now he is attacked for accepting a £623 million offer from BSkyB — 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of *The Times* — that was legally impossible, never mind daft under any rationale, to resist.

There are wider football arguments against the BSkyB takeover, but they make least sense of all from the mouths of United fans who may now, as Edwards's warning over transfer funds suggests, lose out. There will be more money to spend than he will admit and his gloomy forecast is more an irritated response to those supporters *who opposed the BSkyB deal than* a realistic assessment, but the point is made nonetheless — Rupert Murdoch would have allowed heavier spending on players.

So, United will carry on with the same board until the next bid, probably a hostile one, and supporters can rest assured that it is in safe hands. Soaring wages, which have ruined other clubs, have been maintained at sensible levels. The best manager in the country will shortly become the highest-paid.

Yet still Edwards cannot win. The supporters want big-money signings but whinge that Old Trafford is run more like a corporation than a football club. They complain that the ground needs expanding and yet, when the prices go up to pay for the work — and are still cheaper than many of their rivals' — the chairman is accused of a rip-off. Supporters say he should sell the club and, when he offers to, he is branded a traitor. Then there is the issue of his £90 million worth of shares, which the *real* supporter would, of course, happily donate to the club. Are they sure?

Despite the fact that he knows more Manchester United trivia than half the Stretford End combined, Edwards will for ever have to live with the accusation that he is not a committed fan. He will probably be told it to his face this week in Turin. So it is no surprise to hear that he is increasingly tired of the day-to-day running of the club and may soon relinquish it for a place on the football board only. Then some other poor soul will become chief executive and get it in the neck for making United the most successful club in the country. It is a thankless task, even if it is a well-paid one.



Expensive tastes: United are not willing to plunge so heavily into the transfer market this summer after allowing Ferguson to spend £28 million to recruit Stam, left, Yorke and Blomqvist

Auntie is guilty of missing real story



ROB HUGHES

TV VIEW

It is the compelling television image of an English spring — the tide of humanity pouring through the Greenwich Park gates to start the London Marathon. This year 31,583 dared and BBC Television cameras in the air and on the ground transmitted the scene, resembling molten lava gently descending a green mountain, to 102 countries around the world.

The beginning lit up a sombre Sunday morning and four hours of live TV immersed us in the curious *interdependence of two oppo*site compulsions. There are four million who watch, as perhaps they view all things that move on the 20-inch screen in their homes, while 30,000 get out and run until they drop. Fascinating.

As the event grows ever larger, David Coleman and company are taxed to deal with its scope. Yesterday, the impression from the armchair was that they served the integrity of the competitive marathons — four simultaneous races in men's and women's elite and in the wheelchair contests — at the expense of the essence that makes London a unique marathon. The live broadcasts gave us more expertise on the few running for money than on the thousands jogging, walking, staggering to generate cash for charities.

I don't know how I would divide the airtime any differently. Skimp on the real races and Auntie, having lost some of her sporting jewels, would be accused of losing touch with the marathon. Yet the once-a-year story of so many "ordinary" people inspired, and being inspired, by the music of applause from crowds lining the Docklands and the landmarks of London, was thinly spread.

We needed more of Chris Moon, a man without half his limbs after a landmine explosion, defying the odds. We should have seen Spencer Oliver, a former boxer on the run from brain damage, pushing himself in aid of the hospital that saved his life. And, yes, the octogenarians who year by year make marathon perseverance appear child's play.

The serious stuff of marathons was won by Africans. Joyce Chepchumba, of Kenya, proved again that skeletal women cannot have it all their own way: with lovely serenity, with sheer bounce in her legs, she strode clear to a $125,000 (about £80,000) bonus for shaving the record time to 2hr 23min 22sec. "That's one priceless second inside the time," Coleman breathed. Actually, we knew its precise worth, and the cash-register mind of Liz McColgan, this year commentating not running, instantly summed up: "She can come back and do it again."

Richard Nerurkar, a British runner who sat this one out on the back of a BBC motorbike, made a miscalculation shared by the leading men, who let Abdelkader El Mouaziz, of Morocco, break away after the pacemakers dropped out. "El Mouaziz is committing suicide," Nerurkar said at the 15-mile post when the "Marrakesh Express" strode two minutes ahead. El Mouaziz had a minute to spare when he finished, waving to the crowd, in 2hr 7min 57sec. His timing had surprised commentators and opponents alike.

Behind him, and behind the thrilling finish in the men's wheelchair event, we glimpsed the first wedding on the marathon course, and the marriage of a £15 million fundraising event by thousands doing what they never imagined they could do.

Right at the start, the doyen Coleman had booked a certain entry in *Private Eye's* Colemanballs column. "One of the biggest problems they face," he said, "is wind."

GOLF

Remesy's past is forgotten

FROM MEL WEBB IN SINTRA, PORTUGAL

HE TOOK a mere two steps forwards, but it was enough. Jean-François Remesy, known to all and sundry as Jeff, is a modest Frenchman who, until the past four days, had plenty to be modest about, but yesterday he earned the right to shout his double-barrelled moniker from on high as he won the Estoril Open at Penha Longa with a round of 68 and a total of 286, two under par, the highest winning score of the season by three shots.

FINAL SCORES

(Great Britain and Ireland unless stated) 286: J Remesy (Fr) 72, 69, 77, 68. 288: D Carter 70, 72, 79, 67; A Coltart 77, 72, 70, 69; M Florioli (It) 72, 75, 70, 71. 289: V Phillips 69, 77, 73, 70; G Ogilvy (Aus) 73, 75, 71, 70; P Mitchell 74, 71, 72, 72. 290: P Baker 73, 74, 73, 70; E Canonica (It) 74, 71, 73, 72; G Emerson 72, 72, 72, 74; N Fasth (Swe) 73, 69, 74, 74. Other scores: 291: P Price 69, 77, 76, 69; A Raitt 72, 70, 77, 72; R Coles 72, 74, 73, 72; J Spence 72, 75, 71, 73.

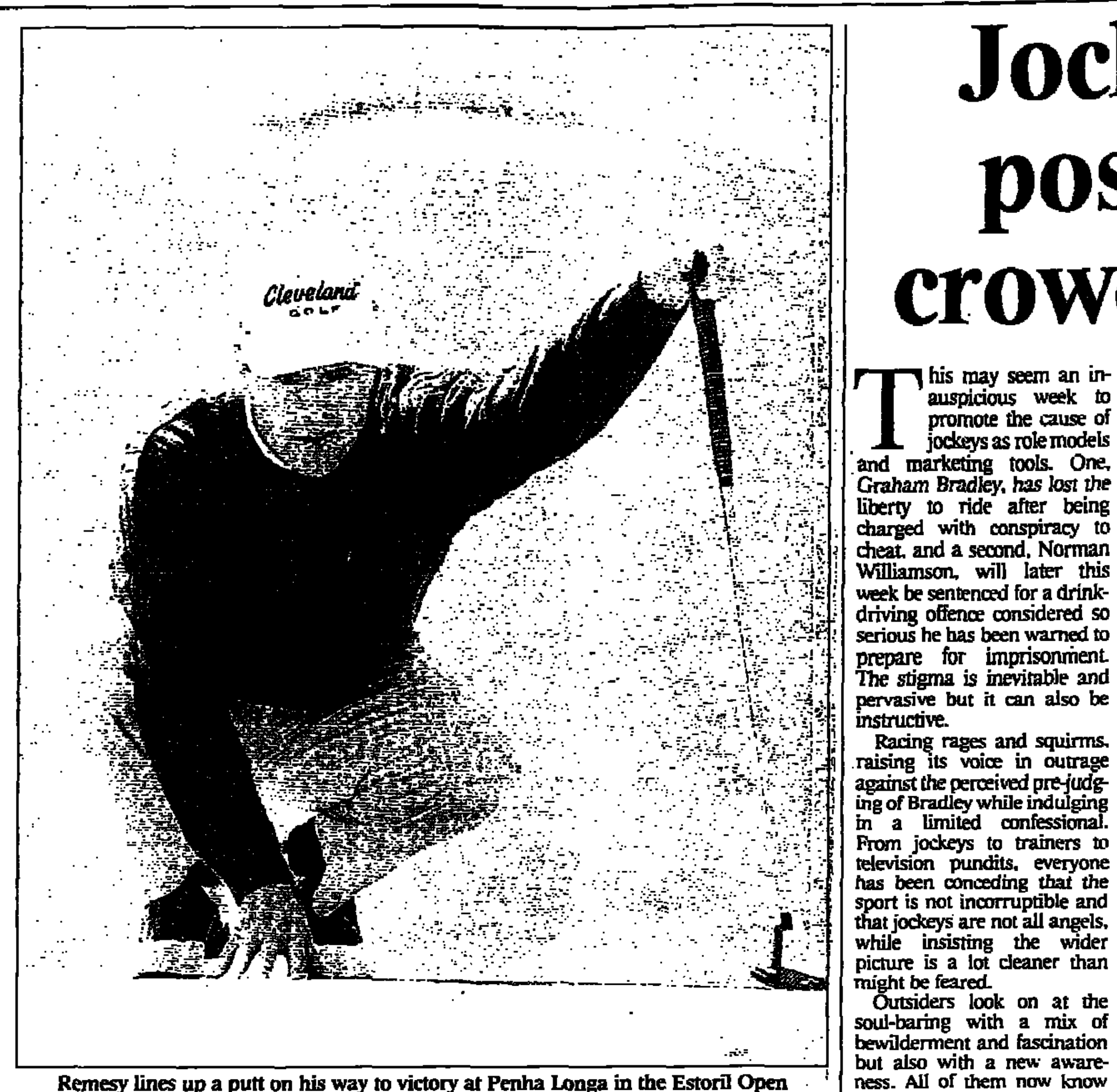
Remesy, 34, has lived his professional life far beyond the other side of the golfing tracks, but the exemption that went with this victory means that, for the next 2½ years, he can rub shoulders with the good and the great of European golf.

The happy and smiling Remesy, who strode up to take his winner's cheque for £66,650, was a very different person from the one who as recently as last winter was considering giving up tournament golf. A man can take only so much and this one had had almost enough.

He had just made his twelfth consecutive visit to the Tour qualifying school and had failed to win back his playing privileges on the regular Tour. He could not bear the thought of returning to the rigours of the second-string Challenge Tour and it was only after dipping into his pocket to consult a sports psychologist that he decided to try one more time. It was money well spent.

Remesy had figured in the upper reaches of the scoreboard until Saturday, when a 77 saw him slip back to a share of eleventh place, four strokes off the lead. It did not matter what he did on this final day: if he was to win, he would need help from those above him and, generously, they came to his assistance.

José Rivero, the overnight leader, had a 77, while the other two players in the final group, Soren Kjeldsen and Sean Corte-Real, 78 and 76 respectively. Mark Mouland had a chance to win, but bogeyed three of the last five holes, Gary Emerson, another contender, shipped three strokes in the final four and Paul Lawrie spoilt his chances by dropping four over the closing stretch. This was humanitarian aid on a grand scale.



Remesy lines up a putt on his way to victory at Penha Longa in the Estoril Open

In the end, the main threat came first from David Carter, who moved through the field to record a 67, the lowest round of the tournament, to finish on level par, and then Andrew Coltart, who was playing in the same three-ball as Remesy.

As the round approached its end, Coltart was the only man left who could whip the title from under Remesy's nose, but a calamitous few minutes around the 17th green ended the challenge of the Scotsman. He put his tee shot on the par-three hole into a bunker, found his ball had hardly any sand beneath it and skinned his shot into deep rough on the other side of the green. A chip and two putts later, the ball dropped for a double-bogey five. As the pair entered the last-chance saloon of the 18th hole, Coltart needed a birdie four against a bogey six by Remesy to take the issue into extra holes.

Instead, Coltart missed his birdie putt from 8ft and Remesy made a four from the same distance. Contest over — and a new life for Remesy, the born-again golfer.

Westwood draws on his extra special reserves



Westwood: sixth play-off win

LEE WESTWOOD enhanced his reputation as a play-off expert by winning the Macau Open at the second extra hole yesterday. The Englishman was forced into sudden death by Andrew Pitts, of the United States, who made a birdie at the 72nd hole.

Westwood had a final round of one-under-par 70, for a nine-under total of 275, and Pitts matched him with a closing 69 before the world No 7 notched his fourteenth career victory, his sixth in Asia and sixth in seven play-offs. "I do all right in play-offs," Westwood said, "but this was the hardest to win. He [Pitts] rolled in putts all day — I think he only had 21."

Darren Clarke incurred a two-stroke penalty for missing his starting time by three minutes after his alarm failed to rouse him. The Irishman had a 73 to finish joint-39th on 290, six over par.

Nick Faldo is set for his best finish for some time after a third-round of 67, four under par, in the MCI Classic at Hilton Head Island, South Carolina. Faldo was six strokes adrift of Chris Perry, the tournament leader, who moved to 203, ten under par, with a 68 that left him one stroke ahead of John Huston and Payne Stewart, the leader after the second round.

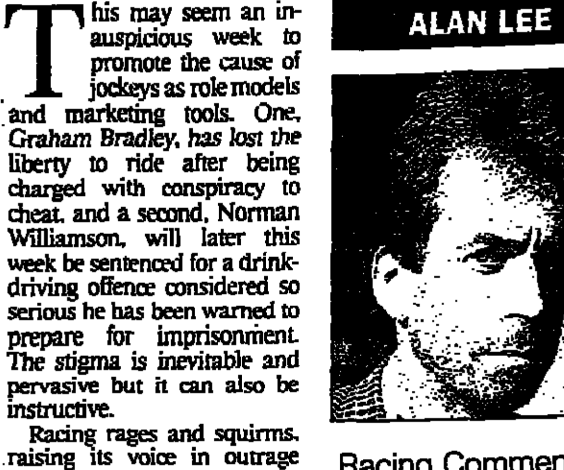
Colin Montgomerie, the European No 1, slipped out of contention, however, after following rounds of 71 and 67 with a disappointing 76.

There was no Sorenstam, no Davies and no Nicholas on the ELPGA (European Ladies' Professional Golf Association) team-sheet for the Weetabix Challenge Trophy match against Great Britain and Ireland's elite amateur squad at Carden Park on Saturday — but still the amateurs were beaten 13-5.

The second-string side restored the professionals' reputation after an ignominious defeat last year. The amateurs were cock-a-hoop after sharing the foursomes 3-3, but then lost all but two of the 12 singles. Jo Head, the ELPGA captain, had voiced a simple message. "We're going to enjoy it and we are going to thrash them," she said.

Jockeying for position in a crowded market

ALAN LEE



Racing Commentary

This may seem an inauspicious week to promote the cause of jockeys as role models and marketing tools. One, Graham Bradley, has lost the liberty to ride after being charged with conspiracy to cheat, and a second, Norman Williamson, will later this week be sentenced for a drink-driving offence considered so serious he has been warned to prepare for imprisonment. The stigma is inevitable and pervasive but it can also be instructive.

Racing rages and squirms, raising its voice in outrage against the perceived pre-judging of Bradley while indulging in a limited confessional. From jockeys to trainers to television pundits, everyone has been conceding that the sport is not incorruptible and that jockeys are not all angels, while insisting the wider picture is a lot cleaner than might be feared.

Outsiders look on at the soul-baring with a mix of bewilderment and fascination but also with a new awareness. All of them now know what Bradley looks like. He has earned notoriety, quite possibly undeserved, and with it has come wide recognition.

He will not welcome it right now, for despite his sense of injured innocence he will be feeling pain and humiliation. However, the fact is he has spent 22 years as a jockey, his name familiar and his record distinguished but his features unknown outside the close confines of National Hunt.

Nobody, least of all Bradley, would have chosen this way to show his face to the world. Williamson will be an equally reluctant subject if the harsh penalty threatened by Gloucester magistrates is handed down on Wednesday. This is the last sort of publicity that racing needs. The paradox is that it comes at the very time when the sport is waking up to the untapped potential of lifting the helmets from jockeys' heads and giving them star billing.

Fifteen years ago, I was instrumental in creating a team of British jump jockeys. It seemed obvious to me that, as this was a rare sport in which we possessed the best in the world, they should be used as an attraction.

It was a generation rich in talent and charisma, exemplified by John Francome and Jonjo O'Neill, and the team concept gave them an identity. They were feted in America, Australia, New Zealand and Europe. At home, the idea fell flat, convention insisting that the jockeys were faceless subordinates to the matter of equine supremacy.

Enlightened minds are now looking at this afresh. They are realising that while the primacy of the horse cannot and should not be challenged among those whose background or profession is racing, a new audience will best be captured by the promotion of the participants who can speak and smile.

On Saturday at Sandown Park, Tony McCoy will duel with Frankie Dettori in a one-mile challenge race devised as a curtain-raiser to the year's best card of mixed Flat and jump racing. It is a gimmick, but that does not make it worthless. The Tote is sponsoring the event and the firm's spokesman, Rob Hartnett, summed up its attractions. "To many people who look in at racing, the horses are just brown things with four legs. They want to relate to the jockeys and we have some of the best in the world."


Bradley: recognition

The theme is striking chords in the offices of the British Horseracing Board (BHB), whose director of communications, Peter Bell, asks: "How many kids' bedroom walls have posters of Dettori or McCoy, compared to Ryan Giggs? Yet these are some of our greatest sporting characters, the type racing needs to promote. We have got to innovate, to take the occasional risk and see how it goes, and the best means of reaching out to a new audience is through the people who ride and train the horses."

Racing in Britain is at a similar stage to English cricket before it embraced the one-day game. Of course, innovation has to be measured and monitored, for it can all too easily slide off the scale of acceptability, the search for personalities and the instant fix cheapening the product. But the signs are good.

The Shergar Cup next month, pitting Europe against the Middle East, packages an event attractive to television and all inquisitive sports-watchers. As John Gosden, the trainer, says: "Racing is often accused of being fuddy-duddy. We should not be cynical but give our support to a brave new idea."

Slowly, racing is reacting to the need to compete for its space in the leisure market. The best thing about British racecourses is that under-16s can enter free. Only now are they realising that it is one thing to let teenagers in, but quite another to show them something that will bring them back. The young want their heroes, and they are more inclined to idolise a jockey than a horse.

COMPANY GOLF DAYS RESULTS

The four top scorers in the individual Stableford competitions played on the company golf days listed below now comprise the company team eligible to qualify for a regional final.

Date	Company Name	Venue	Scores
17/9/98	ACOUSTAFOAM CONSTRUCTION PRODUCTS LTD	WORFIELD	146
	B. HAMILTON 36 M. TRANTER 37 J WATTS 37 T EVANS 39		
17/9/98	LONDON METAL EXCHANGE GOLF ASSOCIATION	TANDRIDGE	122
	D. WARD 33 N. EDKINS 30 J PORTROUS 30 G. SMITH 29		
17/9/98	NEXT PLC	ROTHLEY PARK	143
	M ROBSON 35 B. MOSS 37 M. HEMSWORTH 35 B. MACLEOD 40		
17/9/98	F I S CHEMICALS	DEESIDE	135
	R. BROWN 38 J. WILSON 37 J. WILSON 36 H HALL 36		
18/9/98	DENTON HALL	ROYAL MID SURREY	118
	C. PEET 22 J TOBIN 34 R. TIMPSON 33 S. SNOOK 29		
18/9/98	TAYLOR NELSON SOFRES	ST GEORGES HILL	151
	M. URSELL 36 M. WALTON 39 R. DRURY 40 D. GIBBS 36		
21/9/98	C S S A	WENTWORTH	146
	I. DOVE 37 M. JAMES 39 R GOULD 36 R HARRISON 34		
21/9/98	THE ELECTRICITY POOL OF ENGLAND & WALES	WELCOME HOTEL	134
	N BRYSON 28 A. BARTON 38 D DODGE 37 S. BURNEY 35		
22/9/98	CLARITY FINANCIAL SYSTEMS	EAST SUSSEX NATIONAL	149
	M. O'HARA 38 S. ANTRAM 39 J. O'HARA 37 A .RATCLIFFE 35		
23/9/98	C N C PROPERTIES PLC	KINGSWOOD	134
	R. UPTON 30 D. ATTWOOD 40 I. BOYD 35 C. MCQUESTON 33		
24/9/98	SETON HEALTHCARE GROUP PLC	MERE G & CC	144
	I. CATER 39 J. GRIFFIN 38 D GEORGE 36M. BAHBOUT 35		
24/9/98	BANK OF SCOTLAND	DEESIDE	144
	B. METHVEN 41 G WATSON 41 A. GRAY 38 T MONTGOMERIE 36		
25/9/98	ALEXANDER BINZEL UK LTD	GRANGE PARK	159
	S. HALLOWS 43 A. HALLOWS 40 D. SEDDON 38 D. BARNES 38		
25/9/98	DORE METAL SERVICES LTD	CANTERBURY	140
	I HUNTER 35 A GUNN 40 B. MAGGS 35 R. RALPH 34		
25/9/98	ARMSTRONG WATSON & CO	CARLISLE	134
	A. ROBINSON 34 J. BRAIDWOOD 34 S. VEITCH 33 D. LAWSON 33		
25/9/98	IVECO FORD TRUCK	STOKE POGES	146
	C. THORNEYCROFT-SMITH 34 S. LYMER 39 J. JONES JNR 37 T. NUNN 36		
29/9/98	GREENWICH NATWEST	VERULAM	135
	M. HICKEY 31 M. POWELL 39 S LOGAN 37 M EASTWELL 36		
29/9/98	DUCKHAMS OILS LTD	MENTMORE GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	130
	M. GREGGQ 30 D. MERCER 32 N. DUNCAN 34 J. ARMSTRONG 34		
30/9/98	SPECTUS SYSTEMS LIMITED	PUCKRUP HALL HOTEL & GOLF CLUB	145
	R MASLIN 35 G STUBBS40 K. CHRISTIAN 37 R. LEWIS 37		
30/9/98	DENTON ASSOCIATES (LONDON) LTD	RAC COUNTRY CLUB	135
	M.HALEWOOD 31 B. SEXTON 37 T. PIGOTT 34 N. PORTER 37		
1/10/98	BANK OF IRELAND - MORTGAGE CENTRE	LISBURN	137
	D HODGINS 38 I. JOHNSTON 34 T CARDWELL 38 B. MCGUIGAN 35		
6/10/98	AUTOBAR LIMITED	MENTMORE GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	133
	K. MCMANUS 32 G. LISSIMORE 35 R. POOLE 33 S WARMSLEY 33		
9/10/98	FOREMAN BASSETT INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	PAULTONS GOLF CENTRE	129
	N. CALVERT 34 G. BOWERS 36 P. COLLINGWOOD 34 A. SMITH 33		
13/10/98	KVAERNER TROLLOPE & COLLS	THE BERKSHIRE	132
	T. MOTE 34 D. JULIUS 33 N. SWEET 37 A. MURDOCH 36		
11/11/98	BOYD & LLOYD OFFICE SUPPLIES LTD	WOODSPRING	124
	J. EASTLAKE 31 I. REID 42 P CARTER 33 D. COSFORD 30		
31/12/98	ANGLO HOLT CONSTRUCTION LTD	LITTLE ASTON	137
	P. GREENWOOD 34 R. PARKES 34 D WERRITT 33 A SLY 32		

THE TIMES MeesPierson CORPORATE GOLF CHALLENGE

Gallacher takes up corporate challenge

By Mel Webb


Bernard Gallacher during his Ryder Cup captaincy

OVER the years, The Times MeesPierson Corporate Golf Challenge has come to occupy an important place in the hearts and minds of business golfers everywhere in the British Isles. From the inception of the competition in 1993, the aim of its title sponsors has always been to enhance the season-long experience that only association with the Challenge can bring to its participants — and now that experience is set to take another giant step forwards.

From this week, space in the Monday edition of The Times, one of the flagship days of the newspaper's sworn task of Getting Under the Skin of Sport, will be regularly devoted to coverage of everything concerning the Challenge. Firms registered with the competition are already assured of their moment of fame in The Times _ now they will be given even more.

Every week in this space there will be details of impending golf days involved with the Challenge and results from the previous seven days, plus regular editorial updates of some of the more notable feats accomplished by individuals in the event.

We will be following the trials and tribulations of Challenge entrants and their players and will also feature deeds of derring-do performed in the course of the season. If somebody playing in a Challenge golf day has a hole in one, or produces a remarkable Stableford score, it will appear here.

Looking over the event as it unfolds will be Bernard Gallacher, three times a Ryder Cup captain, who has joined the competition this year as its ambassador-at-large. Gallacher will be attending some of the regional finals in October and will also grace the national final at the La Manga Club Resort in November with his presence.

Gallacher has hitched his star to the Challenge in the confirmed belief that it has no equal in its sphere. He always was a man of sound judgement — his support of this competition just serves to prove the point.

Registration Form

The Times MeesPierson Corporate Golf Challenge is open to any company, organisation, partnership, association or body (not golf societies) based in the British Isles, which holds a business/company golf day in which 12 or more amateur players take part, of which one player must be an employee of the registering company. To qualify for this year's competition, your company golf day must be played on or before September 13th 1999. Your company golf day should include an individual 18 hole Stableford competition, played off 3/4 handicap or be adjusted accordingly. Players qualifying for the Regional and National Finals must have a current Official Club Handicap.

You can enter via the following:-

1. **By Post** Complete the form below and send together with the registration fee of £175 plus VAT (IR£250) to the address below, to arrive no later than September 10th 1999. Acknowledgement will be sent within 21 days.

2. **By Internet** via our event site:

GOLF TODAY http://www.timescorpgolf.com

Please print all details

Company name ______

Name of representative ______

Position ______

Company Address ______

______

______ Post Code ______

Telephone No ______

Fax No ______

Will be holding a golf day at: ______

Golf Club Address ______

______

County ______ on ______ (date)

and will be attended by approximately ______ golfers

If the venue and date of your golf day have yet to be finalised please leave blank and inform us as soon as it is confirmed.

Personalised Newsletter Requirements

Please type or print clearly your company or golf day name (maximum 20 letters) including punctuation, upper and lower cases, to be incorporated in The Times event newsletter for distribution on your day.

Company Name/Golf Day Name

Terms and Conditions

I accept the terms and conditions for company registration and enclose a cheque for £205.63 inc. VAT. (IR£250) made payable to ***The Times* MeesPierson CGC**

Signed ______ Date ______

If you require any further information please call the event organisers on 0171 405 7273 or 0141 221 2225 (Scotland), or write to *The Times* MeesPierson Corporate Golf Challenge, PO Box 4, Harpenden, Hertfordshire AL5 3DL.

The competition is approved by the R&A for payment of expenses 'Rule1-8 Exc. 7RA/84/99.

RACING: LEOPARDSTOWN CONTEST SHEDS NO FURTHER LIGHT ON 2,000 GUINEAS

Jury still out on classic trials

By Chris McGrath

A WEEK of muddling classic trials concluded, naturally enough, with the camera required to determine the winner of yesterday's classic audition at Leopardstown. The photograph confirmed that Saffron Waldon had stuck his nose in front of Mus-If in the Icon 2,000 Guineas Trial.

Saffron Waldon carries the same colours as last year's Sagitta 2,000 Guineas winner, King Of Kings, and is likewise trained by Aidan O'Brien. With Orpen and Stravinsky also resident at Ballydoyle, however, he will not commit himself to anything until working the trio on Friday.

Saffron Waldon scraped home yesterday, receiving 7lb from Mus-If, but O'Brien appears sanguine about Orpen going to the Guineas without a "prep" and reports Stravinsky to have "got a lot fitter since he was beaten at the Curragh last month".

Stravinsky is back down to 8-1 for the Guineas with Ladbrokes after the odds-on defeat of Killer Instinct at Newbury on Saturday. Killer Instinct had been promoted to favouritism thanks merely to his ostentatious work on Newmarket Heath, where Henry Cecil has never stressed young horses off the bridle. Sure enough, on Saturday he could not even win a maiden. To some, his bulk as he strolled sleepily round the paddock spoke of the swollen power of a pugilist: to others, however, it foreshadowed his ponderous, rather clumsy response when asked to match the acceleration of Alrassaam.

Like his victim, Alrassaam is a son of Zafonic, but is rather more lithe and purposeful. Michael Jarvis had left him in the Guineas and urged respect for his prospects. Certainly Alrassaam looks a promising type, but confusion about the more traditional rehearsals is no reason for suddenly preferring the Burghclere Maiden Stakes. Killer Instinct now waits for the Irish Guineas, leaving Cecil to rely on Enrique at Newmarket.

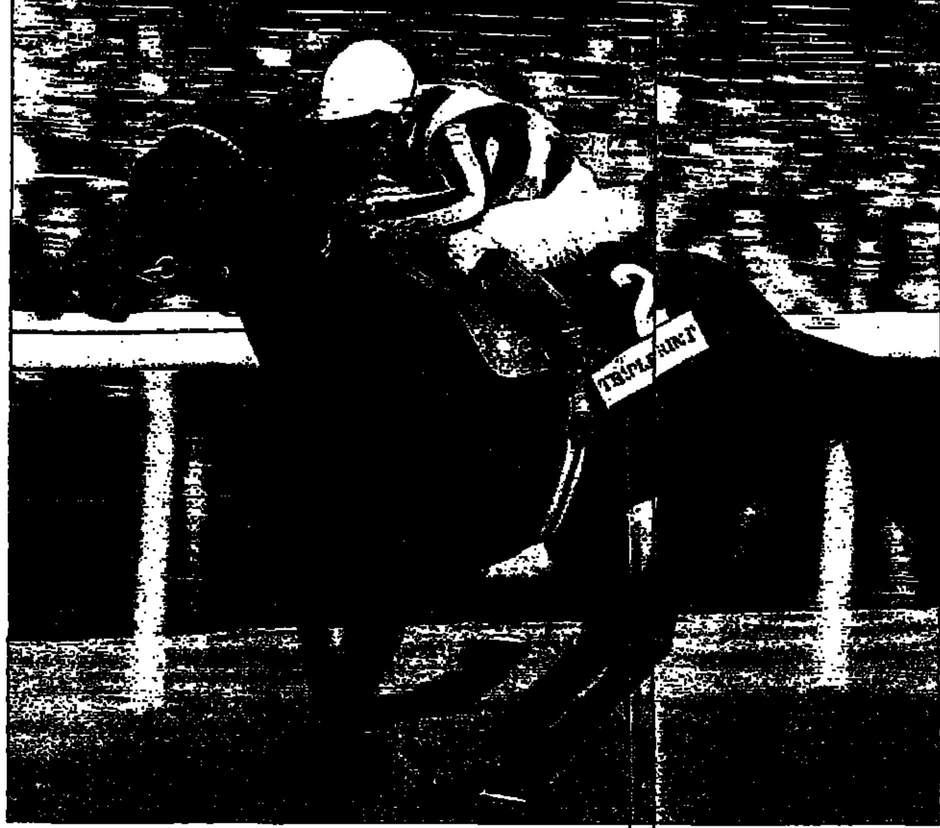
Enrique at least won a recognised trial on Saturday, or would have done but for the sponsor's ill-conceived determination to disguise the Greenham as the Tripleprint Stakes. After promising to win with authority when leading two furlongs out, however, in the end Enrique rather scrambled home from Exeat. Cecil believes he was idling in front, though that trait was not evident when he dashed five lengths clear of Berlioz at Newmarket last year. His dam was a sprinter, and an extra furlong in the Guineas may well drain his stamina.

Commander Collins, by contrast, looks in need of a real test at the trip. Yet simply by avoiding the racing public this spring, he now finds himself 4-1 favourite with William Hill, who offers 5-1 against Enrique. Auction House, who worked after racing on Saturday and also goes straight to the classic, is 8-1. The same price is even offered by Ladbrokes against Mujahid, likely to run despite baffling John Dunlop with his tame display in the Craven Stakes.

The best remaining value perhaps lies with Compton Admiral and Island Sands, who have at least enhanced their status this spring but are still available at 12-1 with William Hill. Compton Admiral won the Craven over the Guineas course and distance with his usual single, sweeping run, the limits of which remain unknown, while Island Sands is being foolishly neglected for a colt who has evidently flourished for Godolphin.

☐ The prospect of fast ground at Sandown on Saturday means that Double Thriller, whose Martell Grand National bid ended at the first fence, will miss the Whitbread Gold Cup.

Saturday's results, page 41


JULIAN HERBERT / ALLSPORT

Enrique heads for the 2,000 Guineas after his win in the Tripleprint Stakes at Newbury

NOTTINGHAM

ROB WRIGHT

2.00 Golden Syrup
2.30 AGENT MULDER (nap)
3.00 Paradise Lane
3.30 Ledgendry Line
4.00 Raise A Prince
4.30 Thrower
5.00 High Tatra

Timekeeper's top rating: 3.00 DANGEROUS DANCER.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 3.00 Polar Ice. 4.00 Secret Style. 5.00 HIGH TATRA (nap).

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO SOFT IN PLACES) TOTE JACKPOT MEETING
DRAW: 5F-6F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST SIS

2.00 COME RACING AT NOTTINGHAM SELLING STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,110: 1m 54yd) (18 runners)

2.30 NOTTINGHAM RACECOURSE 1ST EVERY TIME HANDICAP

3.00 TRY RACE SPONSORSHIP AT NOTTINGHAM MAIDEN STAKES (3-Y-O: £3,403: 5f 13yd) (12 runners)

READING THE RACECARD

103 (12) 0-0432 GOOD TIMES 74 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs J Robinson) B Hall 9-10-0 ....B West (4) 88

Racecard number. Draw in brackets. Six-figure form (F - fell. P - pulled up. U - unseated rider. B - brought down. S - slipped up. R - refused. D - disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing; J if jumps. (B - blinkers. V - visor. T - tongue strap. H - hood. E - Eyeshield. C - course winner. D - distance winner. CD course and distance winner. BF - beaten favourite in most recent race). Going on which horse has won (F - firm, good to firm, hard. G - good. S - soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight to be carried. Rider plus any allowance. Timekeeper's speed rating

3.30 TOTE (SHOWCASE HANDICAP AND TOTE TRIFECTA RACE) (£8,391: 1m 6f 15yd) (18 runners)

401 (6) 03423- FORGIE 178 (CD,F,G,S) (Mrs M McPherson) P Calver 6-10-0 J McAuley (7) 91
402 (7) 16040- MOON COLONY 178 (T,CD,F,S) (Mrs B Lazarus) Lady Herries 6-10-0 K Darley 88
403 (17) 24-104 SHOGUN 32 (Mrs B B Whitehorn) Burke 4-9-13 .... N Callan (5) 82
404 (1) 4314-3 ONCE MORE FOR LUCK 13J (F,G,S) Mrs M Reveley 8-9-10 .... S Copp (5) 84
405 (16) 14430- RAFTING 242 (G) (A Lillingston) M Johnston 4-9-9 .... J Carroll 86

4.00 FURTHER FLIGHT STAKES (£5,543: 1m 6f 15yd) (7 runners)

4.30 RACECOURSE FOR BUSINESS AND PLEASURE LADY RIDERS HANDICAP (£2,700: 1m 1f 213yd) (18 runners)

5.00 275 DAYS LEFT IN THE MILLENNIUM CLASSIFIED STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,734: 1m 1f 213yd) (8 runners)

FLAT LEADERS

TRAINERS

JOCKEYS

COURSE SPECIALISTS

Winning Line buys Struggles Glory

By Carl Evans

THE high-class hunter chaser Struggles Glory has been sold to The Winning Line syndicate. In a deal likely to involve a six-figure sum, eight-year-old Struggles Glory will join Venetia Williams later this week subject to a vet's inspection.

He is owned by Sussex farmer, David Robinson, 57, who has ridden him in all his British races, including when beaten by Last Option at Cheltenham last Thursday.

That defeat has not dimmed the promise of a good horse who is seen as a replacement for Teeton Mill, injured in the Gold Cup. The Winning Line has not given up hope that Teeton Mill will return to the track but Struggles Glory gives it another high-profile chaser for next season.

Stephen Winstanley, head of the Winning Line, said yesterday: "I first noticed the horse a couple of years ago. I was slightly surprised he was beaten at Cheltenham but we would hope he could be made fitter. His owner is a keen amateur but we would expect a top-class professional jockey to get a few pounds of improvement."

Struggles Glory is likely to follow in Teeton Mill's footsteps and run at Cheltenham's evening hunter chase meeting before attempting to win Stratford's Horse & Hound Cup.

HEXHAM

ROB WRIGHT

1.50 Icefire Dancer
2.20 Windthrop
2.50 Steen
3.20 Eriny
3.50 Spring Bavard
4.20 The Snow Burn
4.50 Lord Sandrovitch

Carl Evans: 3.50 Spring Bavard.

GOING: GOOD SIS

1.50 LAZARD ASSET MANAGEMENT NOVICES HURDLE (Div I: £2,196: 2m 4f 110yd) (20 runners)

1 3005 UNION TOWN 10 (B,G) V Thompson 5-11-6 Mr M Thompson
2 00 ANOTHERHANDYMAN 21 J Gledson 5-11-0 Miss P Robson
3 /000 BALLYMANA BOY 58 F Murphy 6-11-0 .... A Maguire
4 50/5 CASTLE BAY 21 G M Moore 8-11-0 .... J Callaghan
5 CHASING BAILEY'S C Grant 5-11-0 .... C McCormack (3)
6 65RP COOL MINER 16P (B) J Wade 7-11-0 .... A Dobbin
7 P560 EDSTONE 28 (B) J Corns 7-11-0 .... O McPhail (5)
8 6/P ENIGMA BELL 109 Mrs S Horner-Harker 6-11-0 .... S Taylor
9 5602 GALINDO 62 J Howard Johnson 5-11-0 .... Mr J Crowley (5)
10 6040 GYMCRAK JESTER 14 M Barnes 5-11-0 .... J Burke
11 000 MIP ON 14 J R Turner 5-11-0 .... R Supple
12 0PP0 SMIDDY LAD 7 (T) R Shiels 8-11-0 .... S Melrose (7)

2.20 LAZARD ASSET MANAGEMENT NOVICES HURDLE (Div II: £2,176: 2m 4f 110yd) (19)

2.50 FEDERATION CHASE (£3,285: 3m 1f) (20)

1 2P1P CASTLE RED 33 (B,D,S) J Howard Johnson 8-11-7 ... A Dobbin
2 014F CHARMING ADMIRAL 9F (B,S) Mrs A Swinbank 6-11-7 .. J Supple
3 P316 HOWYOUDOING 14 (CD,S) S Kettlewell 9-11-7 . Mr R Forristal (5)
4 0156 STEEN 16 (D,G,S) M Hammond 7-11-7 .... B Harding
5 6135 WAR WHOOP 196 (F,G) Miss L Russell 7-11-7 .... R Johnson
6 5324 KENTUCKY GOLD 14 (CD,G,S) Mrs Williamson 10-11-4 S Wynne
7 60/P BREATH OF SCANDAL 16 (S) C Grant 8-11-0 .. C McCormack (3)
8 0-0P GREAT POTENTIAL 52 P Beaumont 7-11-0 .... B Grattan (3)
9 0523 INCH WAY 20 J J O'Neill 7-11-0 .... R McGrath
10 1000 JUMBO'S DREAM 21 (G) J Dixon 8-11-0 .... B Storey
11 0PB0 MENALDI 21 J Wade 9-11-0 .... A S Smith
12 P233 MINELLA GOLD 14 (G,S) L Lungo 10-11-0 ... Mr B Gibson (5)
13 -0UF MR BRUNO 34 M Barnes 6-11-0 .... S Taylor
14 302P RUBON PRINCE 145 N Mason 8-11-0 .... H Oliver (5)
15 P64U SUL FOSSO 21 Mrs S Smith 7-11-0 .... S Durack
16 F50P WILLIAM OF ORANGE 34 J Jefferson 7-11-0 .... G Tormey
17 WOOL HOUSE P Needham 10-11-0 .... N Hannity (5)
18 PB50 SLIEMA CREEK 14 (G,S) V Thompson 5-10-12 .. Mr M Thompson
19 P-P5 HALF EACH 24 (F,G) Miss K Milligan 7-10-9 .... G Lee
20 PF35 OUR CAROL 16 F Murtagh 7-10-9 .... R Supple

7-2 Minella Gold, 4-1 Inch Way, Castle Red, 6-1 Charming Admiral, 8-1 others.

3.20 LCL HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,587: 2m) (13)

3.50 FEDERATION BREWERY CHEVY CHASE MAIDEN HUNTERS CHASE (£1,110: 3m 1f) (16)

4.20 EQUIMAGE HORSE FORAGE HANDICAP CHASE (£3,160: 2m 4f 110yd) (16)

4.50 KEOGHANS MAIDEN OPEN NH FLAT (£1,641: 2m) (21)

WINDSOR

ROB WRIGHT

2.10 Sian's Millennium
2.40 Trump Street
3.10 Kiss Me Goodknight
3.40 Forty Forte (nb)
4.10 Secret's Out
4.40 Gallant Glory
5.10 Ratatuia

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM DRAW: 5F-6F, HIGH BEST SIS

2.10 MONS MEG STAKES (2-Y-O: £3,404: 5f) (15)

2.40 INVERARY MAIDEN FILLIES STAKES (Div I: 3-Y-O: £3,337: 1m 67yd) (13)

3.10 MALLAIG CLASSIFIED STAKES (£6,127: 6f) (9)

3.40 TRAINERTREND HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £5,485: 1m 67yd) (13)

4.10 GLENCOE STAKES (3-Y-O: £3,831: 1m 2f) (17)

4.40 TOBERMORY HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £2,808: 1m 3f 135yd) (20)

5.10 INVERARY MAIDEN FILLIES STAKES (Div II: 3-Y-O: £3,337: 1m 67yd) (12)

1 (1) ALDBURGH J Gosden 8-11 .... L Dettori –
2 (11) 22- BALLADONIA 170 Lady Herries 8-11 .... A Clark 75
3 (12) 4-3 CATRIONA 14 J Noseda 8-11 .... T Quinn 54
4 (9) 00-0 ECLECTIC 14 S Dow 8-11 .... M Roberts 12
5 (2) HAPPY LANDING E Wheeler 8-11 .... S Carson (5) –
6 (8) 0- HARDWICK LODGE 181 M Ryan 8-11 .... M Baird (3) 15
7 (4) 43- MUSICIAN 184 J Fanshawe 8-11 .... R Cochrane 37
8 (7) POLISH GIRL B Meehan 8-11 .... Pat Eddery –
9 (5) 44- PRETTY WOMAN 176 P Cole 8-11 .... C Rutter 58
10 (6) 023- RATATUIA 179 (BF) L Cumani 8-11 .... R Ffrench 58
11 (10) 03- STARTOO 196 R Johnson Houghton 8-11 . S Whitworth 50
12 (3) 0- STREET WALKER 170 C Wall 8-11 .... S Sanders –

9-4 Aldburgh, 11-4 Balladonia, 11-2 Ratatuia, 6-1 Catriona, 7-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

HEXHAM: Trainers: J J Quinn, 7 winners from 18 runners, 38.9%; S Kettlewell, 3 from 10, 30.0%; G M Moore, 19 from 81, 23.5%; L Lungo, 22 from 97, 22.7%; T Tate, 4 from 21, 19.0%; J Dixon, 3 from 18, 16.7%; S Bell, 3 from 20, 15.0%; Miss L Russell, 7 from 48, 14.6%; W McKeown, 4 from 30, 13.3%; P Beaumont, 7 from 53, 13.2%; M Hammond, 12 from 91, 13.2%.

Jockeys: N Hannity, 4 winners from 18 rides, 22.2%; L Wyer, 10 from 45, 22.2%; A Dobbin, 16 from 73, 21.9%; N Horrocks, 5 from 25, 20.0%; P Niven, 14 from 76, 18.4%; R Johnson, 4 from 23, 17.4%; R Guest, 10 from 74, 13.5%.

WINDSOR: Trainers: R Johnson Houghton, 4 winners from 15 runners, 26.7%; J Berry, 3 from 12, 25.0%; Sir M Stoute, 11 from 44, 25.0%; E Dunlop, 3 from 16, 18.8%; J Gosden, 10 from 57, 17.5%; C Brittain, 4 from 24, 16.7%; C Wall, 9 from 65, 13.8%; M Ryan, 7 from 52, 13.5%; R Hannon, 30 from 224, 13.4%; J Arnold, 3 from 23, 13.0%.

Jockeys: L Dettori, 28 winners from 112 rides, 25.0%; Pat Eddery, 33 from 172, 19.2%; Martin Dwyer, 12 from 90, 13.3%; T Quinn, 18 from 135, 13.3%; M Roberts, 9 from 71, 12.7%; R Cochrane, 10 from 95, 10.5%.

FOR THE RECORD

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

NFL EUROPE: Saturday: Frankfurt 21 Berlin 20, Barcelona 28 Amsterdam 16

AUSTRALIAN RULES

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Saturday: Brisbane 17.13 (115) bt Adelaide 8 6 (54); Carlton 19 7 (121) bt Fremantle 14 8 (92); Richmond 22.14 (146) bt Collingwood 14 12 (96) St Kilda 16.11 (107) bt Western Bulldogs 15 9 (99). Sydney 10.12 (72) bt Kangaroos 10 10 (70) **Yesterday:** Geelong 17 13 (115) bt Port Adelaide 10 14 (74); West Coast 15.7 (97) bt Essendon 3 5 (23).

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Friday: Boston 2 Tampa Bay 6, Detroit 8 New York Yankees 1, Toronto 7 Baltimore 6; Kansas City 7 Chicago White Sox 2; Anaheim 9 Seattle 5, Oakland 8 Texas 2 **Postponed:** Cleveland v Minnesota **Saturday:** Boston 8 Tampa Bay 5 Cleveland 5 Minnesota 1 (first game). Cleveland 8 Minnesota 13: (11inns, second game). Detroit 3 New York Yankees 1. Chicago White Sox 6 Kansas City 5, Oakland 11 Texas 3, Toronto 7 Baltimore 4, Anaheim 3 Seattle 4 (10inns)
NATIONAL LEAGUE: Friday: Milwaukee 4 Chicago Cubs 9, Cincinnati 6 Pittsburgh 5. Philadelphia 17 Florida 3, New York Mets 4 Montreal 6, Houston 3 St Louis 5 Arizona 10 San Francisco 4 San Diego 3 Los Angeles 0 **Postponed:** Colorado v Atlanta. **Saturday:** Cincinnati 6 Pittsburgh 7 (10inns). New York Mets 3 Montreal 2; Milwaukee 5 Chicago Cubs 4, Colorado 5 Atlanta 4. Arizona 5 San Francisco 6, Philadelphia 2 Florida 1, Houston 5 St Louis 8, San Diego 3 Los Angeles 7

BASKETBALL

BUDWEISER PLAY-OFF CHAMPIONSHIP: Quarter-finals, third leg: London Towers 87 Newcastle Eagles 68 (London Towers win series 2-1), Manchester Giants 90 Birmingham Bullets 77 (Manchester Giants win series 2-1)
NATIONAL LEAGUE (NBL): Play-off semi-finals: Men: First division: Plymouth 93 Guildford 75, Solent 92 Teesside 113 **Women: First division:** Sheffield 67 Nottingham 54 Rhondda 53 Thames Valley 65
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Friday: Toronto 90 Cleveland 91 (OT), Washington 87 Chicago 70; Atlanta 91 Orlando 79; Boston 82 Miami 81, Detroit 80 New York 71, Minnesota 89 Vancouver 75; Philadelphia 93 Indiana 83, Milwaukee 94 Charlotte 96, San Antonio 81 Phoenix 92; Portland 80 Dallas 85 Golden State 83 Los Angeles Clippers 86 Seattle 91 New Jersey 121 **Saturday:** Cleveland 82 Charlotte 90; New York 90 Toronto 93 Dallas 94 Portland 102, Utah 109 Los Angeles Lakers 93 Sacramento 119 Denver 97

BOWLS

MELTON MOWBRAY: Men's All-England championships: Singles: Semi-finals: S Skelton (Scunthorpe) bt R Newman (Whiteknights) 21-17; M Pulling (Grantham) bt S Thomas (Leicester) 21-9 **Final:** Pulling bt Skelton 21-18 **David Cornwell under-25 double rink competition: Final:** Sunderland bt Acle 38-31 **Over-60 inter-club double rink championship: Semi-finals:** Leicester bt Selby 45-23 (Rink scores Leicester skips first: N Burns bt F Turner 23-8, D Clark bt E Howcroft 22-15); Carlton, Enderby bt Nottingham 48-34 (Rink scores: Carlton skips first: D Smedley lost to D Lee 18-20; A A Clarke bt A D Ward 30-14) **Final:** Leicester bt Carlton 39-34 (Rink scores: Leicester skips first. Burns bt Smedley 22-10, Clark lost to Clarke 17-24) **Under-25 inter-county double rink: Final:** Suffolk bt Kent 40-38 (Rink scores: Suffolk skips first: A Brown lost to P Springale 12-26, M Royal bt J Dunn 28-12)

BOXING

INDIO, California: International Boxing Federation lightweight championship: S Mosley (US, holder) bt J Brown (US) rsc 8th
LAS VEGAS: International Boxing Federation featherweight championship: M Medina (Mex, holder) bt V Polo (Col) tko 9th
COPENHAGEN: European junior-lightweight championship: T Damgaard (Den, holder) bt K Rahilou (Fr) ko 4th. **Heavyweight:** B Nielsen (Den) bt T Witherspoon (US) ko 4th

CRICKET

One-day internationals

West Indies v Australia

PORT OF SPAIN (Australia won toss) West Indies beat Australia by five wickets

AUSTRALIA

M E Waugh run out	74
†A C Gilchrist c Ambrose b Perry	43
S Lee lbw b Perry	7
D R Martyn run out	29
D S Lehmann c Hooper b Simmons	40
*S R Waugh b Simmons	2
M G Bevan not out	29
T M Moody b Perry	2
S K Warne not out	5
Extras (lb 3, w 6, nb 2)	11
Total (7 wkts, 50 overs)	**242**

D W Fleming and G D McGrath did not bat

FALL OF WICKETS 1-108, 2-123, 3-128, 4-194 5-201, 6-210, 7-215.

BOWLING. Ambrose 10-2-40-0; Bryan 10-0-50-0. Hooper 9-0-47-0. Arthurton 2-0-14-0. Perry 10-0-45-3. Simmons 9-0-43-2

WEST INDIES

S C Williams lbw b Fleming	4
S L Campbell b Lehmann	64
J C Adams b Fleming	82
C L Hooper b Fleming	56
*B C Lara not out	18
P V Simmons run out	9
K L T Arthurton not out	1
Extras (lb 1, w 9)	10
Total (5 wickets, 49 overs)	**244**

†R D Jacobs, H R Bryan, N O Perry and C E L Ambrose did not bat

FALL OF WICKETS 1-15, 2-124, 3-194, 4-225, 5-236

BOWLING. McGrath 1-0-1-0; Fleming 10-1-49-3, Moody 8-1-32-0; Martyn 3-0-16-0, Warne 9-0-59-0, Lee 7-0-39-0, M E Waugh 7-0-30-0. Lehmann 4-0-17-1

Umpires S A Bucknor and B Morgan.

PORT OF SPAIN (Australia won toss) West Indies need 190 runs to beat Australia

AUSTRALIA

†A C Gilchrist lbw b Walsh	25
M E Waugh b Ambrose	18
R T Ponting c Jacobs b Perry	7
D S Lehmann b Ambrose	12
*S R Waugh lbw b Dillon	16
M G Bevan not out	59
S Lee c Jacobs b Dillon	1
T M Moody b Dillon	4
B P Julian c Jacobs b Dillon	0
S K Warne run out	29
D W Fleming not out	0
Extras (b 5, lb 7, w 5, nb 1)	18
Total (9 wkts, 50 overs)	**189**

FALL OF WICKETS 1-39, 2-49, 3-68, 4-78, 5-91, 6-93, 7-103, 8-104, 9-181

BOWLING Ambrose 10-1-39-1; Walsh 10-0-37-2, Simmons 4.3-0-27-0; Dillon 10-5-20-4. Hooper 10-0-29-0. Perry 5.3-0-25-0

WEST INDIES: *B C Lara, S C Williams, S L Campbell, J C Adams, C L Hooper, P V Simmons, †R D Jacobs, N O Perry, M Dillon, C E L Ambrose, C A Walsh.

Umpires. S A Bucknor and B Morgan

CYCLING

Road races

ZARAGOZA, Spain: Tour of Aragon: Final stage (88 7 miles) 1, M Wust (Ger, Festina) 3hr 28min 23sec; 2, E Zabel (Ger, Telekom): 3, J Hunt (GB, Banesto): 4, G Matteo Fagnini (It, Saeco). 5, M Sanroma (Sp, Fuenlabrada), 6, J Dean (NZ, US Postal) all at same time **Leading final positions:** 1, J C Dominguez (Sp, Vitalicio) 20hr 42min 41sec, 2, J M Jiménez (Sp, Banesto) at 1sec. 3, L Piedpoli (It, Banesto) 6.
LIEGE WORLD CUP CLASSIC: Fourth stage (264km) 1, F Vandenbroucke (Bel) 6hr 25min 23sec; 2, M Boogerd (Neth) at 27sec, 3, M den Bakker (Neth) 38, 4, M Bartoli (It) 41, 5, P Bettini (It) 48, 6, N Aebersold (Switz) same time **Leading World Cup positions:** 1, Vandenbroucke 198pts. 2, A Tchmil (Bel) 152; 3, P van Petegem (Bel) 129
LANCASTER HERTFORD GRAND PRIX (Welwyn Garden City, 104 miles) 1, J Tanner (Pro Vision-Planet X) 3hr 54min 1sec; 2, A Lyons (unatt) same time. 3, M Stephens (Harrods RT) at 3sec.
FOUR DALES (Guisborough, North Yorkshire, 55 miles). 1, C Newton (Linda McCartney Foods) 2 16 00; 2, M Moss (Cottingham Coureurs) at 1 30. 3, I Hellowell (Middridge CRT) same time
JUNIOR TOUR OF LANCASHIRE (Longridge, 75 miles): 1, M Baker (BCF Merseyside Division) 3:16:55; 2, B O'Brien (Clarkes Contracts RT) at 18sec, 3, D Bees (Eco Multisport) same time.
SURREY LEAGUE (Withyham, East Sussex, 62 miles): 1, P Kench (Liphook Cycles RT) 2:21:25; 2, D Crow (Twickenham CC); 3, *J Ibbotson (Team Men's Health) both same time.*

Time trials

BATH ROAD CLUB HILLY (Bradfield, Berkshire, 50 miles): 1, E Deane (Bournemouth Jubilee Wheelers) 2:02:56; 2, M Cox (Sotoria CC) 2:03:02; 3, C Birch (VC St Raphael) 2:05:29 **Team:** Hounslow and District Wheelers 7:17:57
ICKNIELD RC (Tempsford, Bedfordshire, 25 miles): 1, M Hutchinson (Cambridge University CC) 50:56; 2, L Wright (Sigma Sport RT) 52:27, 3, S Lemanski (Cambridge University CC) 53:28. **Team:** Icknield RC 2 53.35
ELITE CC (Bulphan, Essex, 25 miles). 1, M Hutchinson (Cambridge University CC) 52 18, 2, R Iaws (Birkenhead Victoria CC) 54 04, 3, R Keeble (34 Nomads CC) 55 01.

EQUESTRIANISM

LINCOLNSHIRE: Pedigree Chum Belton horse trials: Master Class: 1, Flintstone (R Powell) 40; 2, Ready Teddy (B Tait, NZ) 41, 3, Gildernstern (O Moore) 47. **Advanced section K:** 1, Welton Envoy (B Tait, NZ) 47; 2, Matt Butler (L Law) 48, 3, Rye Lane (N Taylor) 52. **Advanced section L:** 1, Enzed (P O'Brien) 47. 2, Walk On Top (P Funnell) 48, 3, Chesterfield (B Tait) 50. **Section M:** 1, Watermill Stream (B Overesch-Boker, Ger) 39; 2, Rainbow Magic (P Funnell) 42; 3, Hooray Henry (C Ryan-Bell) 44, 4, Word For Word (M Todd) 44

GOLF

MACAU OPEN: Leading final scores: 275: L Westwood (GB) 66, 69, 70, 70 (Westwood won at second play-off hole): A Pitts (US) 67, 71, 68, 69 **277:** J Kingston (SA) 71, 70, 69, 67. S Oide (Japan) 70, 69, 68, 70. **278:** Zhang Lianwei (China) 68, 72, 68, 71, B Ruangkit (Thai) 71, 66, 70, 72; Hsieh Chin-sheng (Taiwan) 68, 69, 69, 73, Kang Wook-soon (S Kor) 66, 69, 71, 73 **Other score: 290:** D Clarke (GB) 72, 70, 75, 73.

HILTON HEAD, South Carolina: MCI Classic: Leaders after three rounds (United States unless stated): **203:** C Perry 69, 66, 68. **204:** J Huston 68, 67, 69; P Stewart 68, 64, 72. **205:** L Janzen 67, 70, 68. **206:** D Frost (SA) 72, 70, 64; S Gump 72, 69, 65; N Henke 71, 70, 65, J Kelly 71, 68, 67; S Kendall 69, 72, 65. **207:** J Cook 66, 67, 74; S Hoch 66, 70, 71, M Hulbert 68, 69, 70; L Mize 67, 70, 70; C Pavin 70, 69, 68; J Sluman 72, 67, 68; J Sjoland (Swe) 71, 71, 65. **Other scores: 208:** N Faldo (GB) 69, 73, 67. **214:** C Montgomerie (GB) 71, 67, 76.
CARDEN PARK, Chester: Women's Weetabix Challenge Trophy: European LPGA v 13 Great Britain and Ireland elite squad (ELPGA names first; foursomes (3-3): J Morley and C Hall bt K Andrew and V Laing 4 and 3; K Taylor and N Moult bt A Rose and A Coffey 1 hole; S Head and J Head halved with L Laing and L Walters: A Munt and L Lambert lost to L Nicholson and S O'Brien 1 hole. Fairclough and E Ratcliffe halved with H Monaghan and R Hudson; G Stewart and F Forbes lost to F Brown and B Morgan 4 and 3 Singles (10-2) Morley bt Andrew 4 and 3; Moult bt Rose 5 and 3; J Head bt A Laing 1 and 1; Hall bt Walters 3 and 2; Taylor bt V Laing 3 and 2; S Head bt Coffey 2 and 1; Ratcliffe bt Monaghan 6 and 5, Lambert lost to Nicholson 4 and 3; Forbes bt O'Brien 2 and 1; Fairclough bt Hudson 4 and 3; Stewart lost to Morgan 1 hole, Munt bt Brown 2 and 1)

HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE PREMIERSHIP TOURNAMENT (at Reading). **Men:** *Reading 8 Canterbury 2; Cannock 1 Southgate 0;* Southgate 2 Reading 4. (Cannock to play Reading in final). **Women:** Hightown 1 Clifton 2; Slough 2 Ipswich 1; Ipswich 2 Clifton 2 (Slough to play Clifton in final)

ICE HOCKEY

ODENSE, Denmark: World championships: Pool B: Great Britain 5 Denmark 5 (OT). Slovenia 3 Estonia 3; Poland 6 Hungary 1; *Germany 1 Kazakhstan 5.*
☐ Denmark, Great Britain and Kazakhstan qualify for play-offs for places in the 2000 pool A tournament
NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Friday: Tampa Bay 2 Carolina 2; New Jersey 3 Philadelphia 2 (OT). Edmonton 5 Colorado 1, Los Angeles 2 San Jose 0. **Saturday:** Boston 2 Buffalo 1 (OT): New York Islanders 7 Pittsburgh 2; Phoenix 2 Dallas 0; Carolina 1 Ottawa 1 (OT), Montreal 3 Toronto 2; Chicago 3 Detroit 2; Florida 6 Tampa Bay 2, Nashville 1 New Jersey 4; Edmonton 3 Calgary 2; Anaheim 3 San Jose 3.

Eastern Conference

Northeast division

	W	L	T	F	A	Pts
‡Ottawa	44	23	15	239	179	103
†Toronto	45	30	7	268	231	97
†Boston	39	29	13	213	178	91
†Buffalo	36	28	17	204	175	89
Montreal	32	39	11	184	209	75
Atlantic division						
‡*N Jersey	47	24	11	248	197	105
†Philadphia	36	26	19	228	195	91
†Pittsburgh	37	30	14	240	224	88
NY Rangers	33	37	11	216	225	77
NY Islanders	24	48	10	194	244	58
Southeast division						
‡Carolina	34	30	18	210	202	86
Florida	30	34	18	210	228	78
Washington	31	44	6	200	215	68
Tampa Bay	19	54	9	179	292	47

Western Conference

Central division

	W	L	T	F	A	Pts
‡Detroit	43	32	7	245	202	93
†St Louis	36	32	13	234	207	85
Chicago	29	41	12	202	248	70
Nashville	28	47	7	190	261	63
Northwest division						
‡Colorado	43	28	10	237	204	96
†Edmonton	33	37	12	230	226	78
Calgary	30	40	12	211	234	72
Vancouver	23	47	12	192	258	58
Pacific division						
‡*Dallas	51	18	12	235	166	114
†Phoenix	39	31	12	205	197	90
†Anaheim	35	34	13	215	206	83
†San Jose	31	33	18	197	191	80
Los Angeles	32	44	5	187	219	69

† denotes won play-off place
‡ denotes won division title
* denotes won conference title

LACROSSE

TREFOREST, Glamorgan: Women's home international matches: England B 23 Wales B 1. England A 7 President's XII 3. England B 3 Scotland B 1. Wales 5 Scotland 6: President's XII 12 Scotland 5, Scotland B 5 Wales B 1: England 19 Wales 2 (England win tournament)

MOTORCYCLING

PHILLIP ISLAND, Australia: World superbike championship: Second round: First race: 1, T Corser (Aus, Ducati) 34min 28.167sec; 2, C Fogarty (GB, Ducati) 34:31.968, 3, C Edwards (US, Honda) 34 46 436: 4, A Slight (NZ, Honda) 34.46.705: 5, A Yamagawa (Japan, Kawasaki) 34:46 725: 6, N Haga (Japan, Yamaha) 34.46.731: 7, D Romboni (It, Ducati) 35 06.851, 8, C Connell (Aus, Ducati) 35:14 955, 9, K Fujiwara (Japan, Suzuki) 35:23.207; 10, A Meklau (Austria, Ducati) 36:26.644. **Second race:** 1, Corser 34.24.328, 2, Fogarty 34.24 333; 3, Edwards 34:39 575 4, Slight 34:39.655: 5, Haga 34 39 658 6, Yanagawa 34:53 678: 7, S Martin (Aus, Ducati) 35:00 691: 8, Romboni 35:01.219: 9, Connell 35.07.570. 10, Fujiwara 35.15 488. **Leading overall positions:** 1, Fogarty 90pts, 2, Corser 88, 3, Slight 61; 4, Edwards 56; 5 Yanegawa 42; 6, Haga 34

MOTOR RACING

SILVERSTONE: Auto Trader British Touring Car championship: Third round (15 laps, 34.02 miles) 1, L Aiello (Fr, Nissan Primera) 21min 16 158sec; 2, *D Leslie (GB, Nissan Primera)* 1 678sec; 3, R Rydell (Swe, Volvo S40) 8 164, 4, M Neal (GB, Nissan Primera) 8 474; 5, J Thompson (GB, Honda Accord) 9.262, 6, J Plato (GB, Renault Laguna) 18 244, **Fourth round** (30 laps, 66 04 miles) 1, Plato 43.54 811; 2, Y Muller (Fr, Vauxhall Vectra) 5 435 3, J C Boullion (Fr, Renault Laguna) 9 283. 4, Thompson 13 282 5, P Kox (NZ, Honda Accord) 15.134, 6, L Aiello (Fr, Nissan Primera) 25 043. **Leading championship positions:** 1, Thompson 43pts, 2, Plato 41. 3, Neal 31. 4, Leslie 25, 5, Aiello 21, 6, equal, Muller and Boullion 18

RACKETS

QUEEN'S CLUB: Lacoste British Open Doubles: Semi finals: J Male and M Hue Williams bt W Boone and *D Makey* 15-3, 15-5 15-4, 7-15, 15-10: J Larkin and T Sawrey-Cookson bt N Smith and P Brake 14-17, 15-10, 15-6, 15-8, 17-15 **Final:** Male and Hue Williams bt Larkin and Sawrey-Cookson 17-14, 15-10, 15-6, 16-13.

REAL TENNIS

HOLYPORT: Harvey Joseph Women's British Open (Great Britain unless stated) **Quarter-finals:** P Lumley bt J Lippincott (US) 6-0, 6-0, *C Cornwallis bt S Jones* 6-1, 4-6, 6-1, K Leeming (Aus) bt K Allen 6-0, 6-0 A Garside bt F Deuchar (Aus) 6-4, 6-1 **Semi-finals:** Lumley bt Cornwallis 6-4, 6-3, Leeming bt Garside 1-6, 6-5, 6-5 **Final:** Lumley bt Leeming 6-4, 6-3.

SAILING

CLIPPER ROUND-THE-WORLD RACE: Overall positions (after leg 4a) 1, Ariel 11 5pts, 2, Chrysolite 33.5 3, Antiope 36, 4, Mermerus 41; 5, Thermopylae 45.5, 6, Taeping 46 5, 7, Serica 48
HYERES, France: Olympic Classes Regatta (after first one): **Soling** (after 1 race). 1, A Adler, M Ferreira and D Gloub (Br) 1pt. 2, A Beadsworth, R Sydenham and B Parkin (GB) 2. 3, H Wallen, J Barne and M Auguston (Swe) 3 **Finn** (after 1 race): 1, M Kusnierwicz (Pol) 1 2, M van Muyden (Neth) 2. 3, F Loof (Swe) 3 **470 women** (after 1 race) 1, S Rees Jones and I Leask (GB) 1, 2, L and A Carlsson (Swe) 2: 3, J Danis and A Bucek (Aus) 3 **Mistral women** (after 2 races). 1, F Merret (Fr) 4. 2, A Sensini (It) 5. 3, C Johnstone (GB) 11

SHOOTING

BLOEMFONTEIN: South African National Rifle Association championships: State President's Prize Final: 1, S Penrose (GB) *436 35*, 2, H Brewer (SA) 446 40, 3, M Thompkins (US) 446 35 **Protea match** (teams of 12, 10 shots at 300, 600, 900m) 1, Australia 2,336.190 (L Mawbey) 199.24, 2, South Africa 2,329 176, 3 Great Britain 2,321 175 (S Penrose 198.18) **South African championship** (grand aggregate plus State President's I and II). 1, T Whitaker (US) 1,298 131, 2, R Lauterbach (SA) 1,296 108, 3, D Luckman (GB) 1,294 102

SNOOKER

THE CRUCIBLE, Sheffield: Embassy world championship: First round: J Higgins (Scot) bt G Greene (Eng) 10-2; N Bond (Eng) bt *D Dale (Wales)* 10-6; T Drago (Malta) bt F O'Brien (Ire) 10-4; C Small (Scot) bt A Hamilton (Eng) 10-9 **Latest position:** J Parrott (Eng) leads T Murphy (N Ire) 6-3.

SQUASH

HURGHADA, Egypt: WISPA World Grand Prix finals: Third qualifying round: Group A: *C Owens (Aus) bt M Martin* (Aus) 9-3, 8-10, 9-4, 9-6: L Joyce (NZ) bt S Horner (Eng) 9-6, 7-9, 9-1, 9-5 **Group B:** N Grainger (SA) bt S Schöne (Ger) 10-9, 9-5, 9-0, C Jackman (Eng) wo S Fitz-Gerald (Aus)
HALIFAX: BSPA Grand Prix: Men: Semi-finals: P Lord (Cheshire) bt S Handley (Oxon) 15-13, 15-11, 13-15, 15-11: S Meads (Berks) bt D Campion (Yorks) 15-11, 15-9, 15-11 **Women: Final:** R Macree (Essex) bt C Beaumont (Yorks) 9-4, 9-5, 9-1.

TENNIS

BARCELONA OPEN: Semi-finals: F Mantilla (Sp) bt F Clavet (Sp) 6-3, 6-2; K Alami (Mor) bt T Martin (US) 6-3, 6-4 **Final:** Mantilla bt Alami 7-6, 6-3, 6-3.
TOKYO: Japan Open: Men: Semi-finals: W Ferreira (SA) bt T Johansson (Swe) 6-3, 6-2. N Kiefer (Ger) bt J Bjorkman (Swe) 4-6, 6-1, 6-4. **Final:** Kiefer bt Ferreira 7-6, 7-5. **Women: Semi-finals:** A Frazier (US) bt C Morariu (US) 6-4, 5-7, 6-3; A Sugiyama (Japan) bt J Chi (US) 7-6, 6-3. **Final:** Frazier bt Sugiyama 6-2, 6-2
FEDERATION CUP: World group one: **First round:** Switzerland 3 Slovakia 0 (in Zurich): United States 2 Croatia 0 (*in North Carolina*), Italy 1 Spain 1 (in Reggio Calabria); Russia 3 France 2 (in Moscow) **World group two: First round:** Belarus 1 *Czech Republic 4 (in Minsk); Austria 3 Australia 2 (in Klagenfurt)*; The Netherlands 0 Belgium 5 (in Den Bosch)

GUIDE TO THE WEEK AHEAD

TODAY

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7 30 unless stated

FA Carling Premiership

Arsenal v Wimbledon (8 0)

Nationwide Conference

Hednesford v Stevenage (7.45)

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Emley v Chorley; Hyde v Leigh RMI **First division:** Ashton United v Gretna
RYMAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Dagenham and Redbridge v Gravesend
DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Midland division: Redditch v Paget
AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: *First division: Arsenal v Ipswich (3 0)*, Chelsea v Crystal Palace (7 0)
PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Everton v Nottingham Forest (7 0), Stoke v Blackburn (7 0) **First division:** Oldham v West Bromwich (7 0) **Second division:** *Sheffield Utd v Bradford (7 0)* **Third division:** Carlisle v Scunthorpe (7 0)
SCHWEPPES ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Premier division: Ilford v Hullbridge Sports
ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTH LEAGUE: **First division:** Newcastle Blue Star v Penrith
JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Totton v Lymington and New Milton.
UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: S and L Corby v Spalding

CRICKET

PPP county championship

11 0, first day of four, 104 overs minimum

EDGBASTON: Warwickshire v Somerset

TOMORROW

FOOTBALL

UEFA CUP: Semi-finals, second leg: Bologna (0) v Marseilles (0). Parma (3) v Atletico Madrid (1).
FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Charlton v Tottenham (7 45).
NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Birmingham v Queens Park Rangers (7 45). Grimsby v Sheffield Utd (7 45). Ipswich v Stockport (7.45). Norwich v Bolton (7 45). Port Vale v Watford (7.45) **Second division:** Chesterfield v Bristol Rovers (7 45). Northampton v Wigan (7 45). Notts County v Macclesfield (7 45) Preston v Walsall (7 45). Wrexham v Gillingham, York v Blackpool (7 45). ***Third division:*** Darlington v Exeter (7 45) Halifax v Scunthorpe (7 45). Shrewsbury v Rotherham (7 45)
NATIONWIDE CONFERENCE: Cheltenham v Forest Green (7 45); Leek v Welling (7 45). Rushden and Diamonds v Kingstonian (7 45)
THE TIMES FA YOUTH CUP: Semi-final, first leg: West Ham v Everton (7 0)
BANK OF SCOTLAND SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE: Dundee Utd v St Johnstone (7 45)

CRICKET

PPP COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP (four days) **Derby:** Derbyshire v Glamorgan. **Leicester:** Leicestershire v Nottinghamshire ***Lord's:*** *Middlesex v Lancashire* **Worcester:** Worcestershire v Surrey

RUGBY UNION

ANGLO-WELSH CLUB MATCH: Swansea v Bedford (7 30)

RUGBY LEAGUE

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Premier division: Wigan St Patricks v Woolston (7 30)

WEDNESDAY

FOOTBALL

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Liverpool v Leicester (7 45), Sheffield Wednesday v Newcastle (7 45)
EUROPEAN CUP: Semi-finals, second-leg: Bayern Munich (3) v Dynamo Kiev (3) (7 45). Juventus (1) v Manchester Utd (1) (7 45)

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: Second division: Fulham v Millwall (7 45) **Third division:** *Scarborough v Leyton Orient (7 30).* Swansea v Cambridge Utd (7 45)
THE TIMES FA YOUTH CUP: Semi-final, first leg: Newcastle v Coventry (1.0)
SCOTTISH LEAGUE: First division: Clydebank v Greenock Morton

CRICKET

PPP COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP (four days) **Southampton:** Hampshire v Kent. **Hove:** Sussex v Northamptonshire **Headingley:** Yorkshire v Gloucestershire
UNIVERSITY MATCH (three days) **Fenner's:** Cambridge University v Essex

RUGBY UNION

ALLIED DUNBAR PREMIERSHIP: First division: *Newcastle v Richmond (7.30).* West Hartlepool v Harlequins (7 30)
ANGLO-WELSH CLUB MATCH: Cardiff v London Irish (7 15)

RUGBY LEAGUE

NORTHERN FORD PREMIERSHIP: Oldham v Featherstone (7 45)
NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: First division: Featherstone Lions v Dudley Hill (7 30)

THURSDAY

FOOTBALL

CUP WINNERS' CUP: Semi-finals, second leg: *Lazio (1) v Lokomotiv Moscow (1)*: Real Mallorca (1) v Chelsea (1) (8 0)
NATIONWIDE CONFERENCE: Cheltenham v Yeovil (7 45) Forest Green v Morecambe (7 45)

OTHER SPORT

GOLF: Scottish women's strokeplay (at Troon)

FRIDAY

FOOTBALL

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Bury v Bolton (7 45)

RUGBY LEAGUE

JJB SUPER LEAGUE: Bradford v Halifax (7 30)

OTHER SPORT

MOTOR RACING: *British superbike championship (at Oulton Park).*

SATURDAY

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3 0

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Aston Villa v Nottingham Forest; Blackburn v Liverpool, Derby v Southampton. Everton v Charlton, Leicester v Coventry. Middlesbrough v Arsenal. Tottenham v West Ham; Wimbledon v Newcastle
NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Bristol City v Birmingham, Huddersfield v Barnsley, Ipswich v Crewe, Oxford Utd v Norwich. Portsmouth v Stockport; Queens Park Rangers v Bradford; Sunderland v Sheffield Utd. Swindon v Grimsby. Tranmere v Port Vale, Watford v Crystal Palace **Second division:** Blackpool v Bristol Rovers. Bournemouth v Chesterfield, Fulham v Wrexham, Lincoln v Walsall; Macclesfield v York, Manchester City v Wycombe, Millwall v Preston, Northampton v Colchester, Notts County v Luton, Oldham v Gillingham, Stoke v Burnley, Wigan v Reading **Third division:** Brighton v Hull, Cambridge Utd v Peterborough, Carlisle v Darlington, Chester v Halifax, Exeter v Rochdale, Leyton Orient v Shrewsbury, Mansfield v Hartlepool. Scarborough v Cardiff; Scunthorpe v Barnet. Southend v Brentford, Swansea v Plymouth Torquay v Rotherham.
NATIONWIDE CONFERENCE: *Barrow v* Woking Farnborough v Hednesford, Hayes v Cheltenham, Hereford v Rushden and Diamonds, Kingstonian v Forest Green, Northwich v Yeovil, Southport v Leek Stevenage v Kidderminster, Telford v Doncaster, Welling v Morecambe
BANK OF SCOTLAND SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE: Dundee v *Kilmarnock*, Dunfermline v Dundee Utd; Motherwell v Hearts, Rangers v Aberdeen, St Johnstone v Celtic
SCOTTISH LEAGUE: First division: Ayr v Falkirk Clydebank v Airdrie; Hamilton v Raith, Hibernian v Greenock Morton, St Mirren v Stranraer **Second division:** East Fife v Arbroath, Forfar v Alloa, Inverness CT v Partick: Queen of South v Clyde: Stirling v Livingston **Third division:** Albion v Berwick, East Stirling v Cowdenbeath, Montrose v Ross County, Queen's Park v Brechin, Stenhousemuir v Dumbarton

CRICKET

CGU NATIONAL LEAGUE (one day) **First division: Taunton:** Somerset Sabres *v Durham Dynamos*

RUGBY UNION

Kick-off 2.30 unless stated

ALLIED DUNBAR PREMIERSHIP: First division: Bath v West Hartlepool (3 0), Bedford v Northampton (3 0). Sale v Leicester (3 0) **Second division:** Blackheath v Rugby (3 0), Bristol v Exeter (3 0). Coventry v Worcester (3 0). Orrell v Fylde (3.0). Rotherham v Waterloo (3 0): Wakefield v Moseley (3 0)
REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: Royal Navy v The Army (at Twickenham, 3 0)
WELSH LEAGUE: First division: Abertillery v Pontypool. Bonymaen v South Wales Police, *Cross Keys v UWIC, Maesteg v Llandovery:* Merthyr v Rumney; Newbridge v Dunvant; Tondu v Blackwood, Treorchy v Tredegar
TENNENT'S VELVET CUP: Final: Gala v Kelso (at Murrayfield, 3.0).
AIB LEAGUE: Second division: Ballynahinch v Dolphin, Derry v Wanderers; Malone v Old Crescent. Portadown v Greystones: UCC v Dungannon

RUGBY LEAGUE

JJB SUPER LEAGUE: London v Warrington (6 30)

HOCKEY

EHA WOMEN'S CUP: Semi-finals (at NHC, Milton Keynes, 2 0) Slough v Chelmsford Highway (2 0). Fyffes Leicester v Olton Terraquest (4.0)

OTHER SPORT

BOXING: Planet Ice, Peterborough: British super-bantamweight title: P Mullings (holder, Harrow) v D Docherty (Glasgow)

SUNDAY

FOOTBALL

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Leeds v Manchester Utd (11 30), Sheffield Wednesday v Chelsea (4 0)
NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Wolverhampton v West Bromwich (1.0).
BANK OF SCOTLAND SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE: Rangers v Aberdeen (6 05)

CRICKET

CGU NATIONAL LEAGUE (one day) **First division: Chelmsford:** Essex Eagles v Lancashire Lightning **Southampton:** *Hampshire Hawks v Kent Spitfires.* **Edgbaston:** Warwickshire Bears v Worcestershire Royals. **Headingley:** Yorkshire Phoenix v Gloucestershire Gladiators **Second division: Lord's:** Middlesex Crusaders v Glamorgan Dragons. **The Oval:** Surrey Lions v *Northamptonshire Steelbacks* **Hove:** Sussex Sharks v Derbyshire Scorpions

RUGBY UNION

ALLIED DUNBAR PREMIERSHIP: First division: Newcastle v Gloucester (3.0). Richmond v Wasps (3 0). Saracens v Harlequins (2.15) **Second division:** London Welsh v Leeds (3 0)

RUGBY LEAGUE

Kick-off 3 0 unless stated

JJB SUPER LEAGUE: Gateshead v Salford. Huddersfield v Leeds, Hull v St Helens (3 15). Sheffield v Wakefield (6.35). Wigan v Castleford
NORTHERN FORD PREMIERSHIP: Batley v Barrow, Doncaster v Whitehaven, Hull KR v Featherstone. Hunslet v Rochdale (3 30). Keighley v Lancashire Lynx. Oldham v York, Swinton v Leigh. Workington v Widnes

Marcel Wust, centre, brings the Tour of Aragon to a stylish close as he wins the fifth and final stage in Zaragoza yesterday. The overall winnerwas Juan Carlos Dominguez

RUGBY LEAGUE

JJB Super League

Salford 14 Huddersfield 15
Salford: **Tries:** *Blakeley, Cange* **Goals:** Blakeley 3. **Huddersfield: Tries:** Bentley, Russell **Goals:** Goulding 3 **Dropped goal:** Goulding **Att:** 4,125

St Helens 39 Sheffield 30
St Helens: Tries: *Cunningham, Iro, Nickle,* Perelini, Stewart, Wellens **Goals:** Long 7. **Dropped goal:** Wellens **Sheffield: Tries:** Hardy, Powell, Sodje, Turner **Goals:** Aston 7. **Att:** 9.010

Wakefield 40 London 8
Wakefield: Tries: Hughes 3, Kenward, McDonald, Poching, Stott. **Goals:** Hughes 6 **London: Try:** Tollett. **Goals:** Tollett 2 **Att:** 3.097

Warrington 14 Bradford 22
Warrington: Tries: Forster, Penny **Goals:** Briers 3. **Bradford: Tries:** Boyle, Naylor, Spruce, Withers **Goals:** H Paul 3. **Att:** 7.591.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
St Helens	*6*	*6*	*0*	*0*	*209*	*108*	*12*
Bradford	6	5	0	1	106	111	10
Wigan	6	4	0	2	180	83	8
*Castleford	5	4	0	1	105	70	8
Warrington	6	4	0	2	106	114	8
Halifax	6	3	0	3	104	88	6
Leeds	6	3	0	3	126	110	6
Sheffield	6	3	0	3	133	148	6
London	6	3	0	3	100	180	6
*Gateshead	5	2	0	3	100	101	4
Wakefield	6	2	0	4	116	132	4
Huddersfld	6	2	0	4	115	135	4
Salford	*6*	*0*	*0*	*6*	*89*	*152*	*0*
Hull	6	0	0	6	70	149	0

* Does not include last night's match

Northern Ford Premiership

Barrow 25 Workington 12
Barrow: Tries: Atkinson, Barchard, Holt, Rhodes **Goals:** Holt 4 **Dropped goal:** Holt. **Workington: Tries:** Close, Fisher **Goals:** Close 2. **Att:** 1.566.

Dewsbury 42 Doncaster 3
Dewsbury: Tries: Flynn 2, Ball, Eaton, Godfrey, Long, O'Mera, Spink. **Goals:** Eaton 5 **Doncaster: Goal:** Creasser **Dropped goal:** Maher **Att:** 1.038

Featherstone 16 Batley 15
Featherstone: Tries: Newlove, Puura, Stokes. **Goals:** Dickens 2 **Batley: Tries:** Bargate, Barnett. **Goals:** Price 3. **Dropped goal:** Dyson. **Att:** 1,852

Hunslet 38 Whitehaven 16
Hunslet: Tries: Walker 2, Baker, Fatnowna, Plange **Goals:** Fletcher 8 **Whitehaven: Tries:** Fraser, Seeds, Wilson. **Goals:** Kitchin 2. **Att:** 1,004

Leigh 28 Keighley 16
Leigh: Tries: Arkwright, Cruickshank, Fairclough, Ingram, Murray, Street **Goals:** Wingfield 2. **Keighley: Tries:** Larder, Lee **Goals:** *Wood 4* **Att:** *1,656*

Rochdale 14 Hull KR 20
Rochdale: Tries: Bunce, Hepi, Marsh. **Goal:** Fox. **Hull K R: Tries:** Dixon, Gene, Rouse, A Smith **Goals:** Charles, Gray **Att:** *1,179*

Widnes 26 Swinton 10
Widnes: Tries: Cantillon 2, Devecchi, Percival **Goals:** Hewitt 4 **Dropped goal:** Hewitt **Swinton: Tries:** Casey, M Welsby **Goal:** Gartland. **Att:** 2,745.

York 22 Bramley *12*
York: Tries: Deakin, Goddard, Pallister **Goals:** Benn 4 **Dropped goals:** Calaghan, Precious **Bramley: Tries:** Render 2, Wray **Att:** 984

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hull KR	10	8	1	1	187	117	17
Dewsbury	10	8	0	2	293	180	16
Leigh	10	8	0	2	276	206	16
Featherstone	9	7	0	2	227	151	14
Widnes	10	7	0	3	231	164	14
York	10	6	1	3	186	149	13
Hunslet	10	6	0	4	244	139	12
Barrow	10	5	0	5	261	234	10
Keighley	9	4	0	5	180	194	8
Bramley	10	4	0	6	142	157	8
Batley	*10*	*3*	*1*	*6*	*168*	*158*	*7*
Workington	9	3	1	5	166	235	7
Rochdale	9	3	0	6	177	193	6
Whitehaven	10	3	0	7	175	220	6
Swinton	10	3	0	7	179	230	6
Lancashire L	9	3	0	6	142	276	6
Oldham	*8*	*2*	*1*	*5*	*117*	*197*	*5*
Doncaster	11	1	1	9	153	304	3

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Premier division: Beverley East Hull 8 Oldham St Annes 34, Castleford Lock Lane 10 Leigh MR 26, Egremont 14 Skirlaugh 10, Woolston 16 Wainey Central 2 **First division:** Millom 36 Dudley Hill 36, Moldgreen 3 Wigan St Judes 20: Rochdale Mayfield 13 Siddal 20 **Second division:** Eccles 23 Hull Dockers 2, New Earswick 26 Blackbrook 6
AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL LEAGUE: Saturday: Parramatta 26 Melbourne 14, Penrith 18 Cronulla 16, South Sydney 18 Western Suburbs 20 **Yesterday:** Auckland 0 North Queensland 26, Balmain 18 Manly 12, Newcastle 19 Brisbane 18. St George-Illawarra *44 Canberra* 2

Leading positions

	P	W	D	B	L	F	A	Pts
Sydney C	7	6	0	0	1	178	72	12
Penrith	6	5	0	1	1	163	66	12
Cronulla	*7*	*6*	*0*	*0*	*1*	*164*	*78*	*12*
N Sydney	6	4	0	1	1	116	84	10
Melbourne	7	4	0	0	3	180	105	8
St G-I'warra	7	4	0	0	3	170	109	8
Newcastle	7	4	0	0	3	164	126	8
Parramatta	7	4	0	0	3	96	83	8
Canberra	*6*	*3*	*0*	*1*	*3*	*132*	*121*	*8*

ATHLETICS

Road running

ROTTERDAM MARATHON: Men: 1, J Kosgei (Ken) 2hr 7min 9sec, 2, F Roncero (Sp) 2:07:24, 3, J Rey (Sp) 2 07 36; 4, S Biwott (Ken) 2 07 43, 5, Yi-yong Kim (S Kor) 2:07.50. 6, M Ojima (Japan) 2:08 48 **Women:** 1, T Loroupe (Ken) 2:22:50: 2, S Chepkemei (Ken) 2:26 40, 3, A I Alonso (Sp) 2:29:56. 4, C Mallo (Fr) 2:31 50: 5, E Olivera (Chile) 2:32:25, 6, H Hodenak (Nor) 2:33 27.
WOLVERHAMPTON: Carl Lisseman 4 x 5.3km relay: 1, Tipton 1hr 3min 18sec. 2, Tipton B 1:04:32. 3, Birchfield 1 04 54 **Fastest laps:** 1, D Burrows (Birchfield) 15.23 2, N Jones (Tipton) 15.27. 3, S Hall (Tipton) 15:45
HARROW: Icon 10km: 1, J Critchlow (Watford) 30min 59sec, 2, R Szade (Newport) 31.14, 3, H Raidi (Belgrave) 31:17, 4, J Lawler (Bedford) 31.19; 5, R Howell (Thames Hare and Hounds) 31 40, 6, A Hunt (Cardiff) 31 53 **Teams:** 1, Thames Hare and Hounds 55pts; 2, London Irish 79, 3, Watford 135 **Veteran:** D Dymond (Cambuslang) 32 23. **Over-45:** D Hill (Thames Hare and Hounds) 33:20. **Over-50:** J Willoughby (Queen's Park Harriers) 33 19 **Over-55:** R Dickson (Thames Hare and Hounds) 37.29 **Over-60:** K Speace (Thames Hare and Hounds) 38 04 **Women:** 1, D Sanderson (Watford) 35:50. 2, E Coleman (unattached) 36 02, 3, L Francis-Thomas (Newport) 36 16 **Teams:** 1, Ealing, Southall and Middlesex 25; 2, London Irish 38
WEST EWELL: East Surrey League (4 miles) 1, Y Yusuf (Croydon) 21min 18sec; 2, P Haywood (Boxhill Racers) 22:11; 3 A Franklin (Sutton) 22:52 **Teams:** 1, Croydon 30pts, 2, Boxhill Racers 34, 3, 56. **Veterans:** C Abbott (Epsom and Ewell) 24:1. **Over-50:** S Collie (Croydon) 25:33 **Final standings:** 1, Boxhill Racers 47pts, 2, Epsom and Ewell 39, 3, Croydon 37
DERBY: LARA Races (one mile): 1, D Yates (Matlock) 4min 42sec, 2, A Whittaker *(Matlock) 4.43, 3, R Hunt (City of Stoke)* 4:50. **Women:** W Farrow (Derby Ladies) 5:03. **5km:** 1, J Arnold (Matlock) 15 35; 2 K Webster (Matlock) 16:15, 3, D Yates (Matlock) 16:22. **Veteran:** R Hunt (City of Stoke) 16.30 **Women:** 1, W Farrow (Derby Ladies) *16:57, 2, S Branney (City of Glasgow) 18:0;* 3, C Cresswell (Notts) 18:27

Track and field

ABERDEEN: Scottish University championships: Men: 100m: J Operka (Dundee) 11sec **200m:** S Scott (Glasgow) 23. **400m:** G Stevenson (Glasgow) 49.5. **800m:** J Tonner (Strathclyde) 1:56 7. **1,500m** C Walker (Strathclyde) 4:02 9 **5,000m:** D Gow (Strathclyde) 16.05 0 **Steeplechase: 3,000m:** C Walker (Strathclyde) 10:4 3 **Hurdles: 110m:** M Hendry (Glasgow) 1.9 **400m:** S Kearns (Abertay) 57 1 **High jump:** M Elliott (Glasgow) 1.85m **Pole vault:** D Graham (Edinburgh) 3.60m **Long jump:** A McInroy (Glasgow) 6 45m **Triple jump:** C McGinley (Dundee) 12 49m **Shot:** P Sochart (Stevenson's, Edinburgh) 13.11m **Discus:** C McGinley (Dundee) 31.41m. **Javelin:** J Smith (Aberdeen) 56.63m **4 x 400m relay:** Glasgow 3:33 9 **Women: 100m:** J McKay (Glasgow) 13 3 ***200m:*** *N Middleton (Strathclyde) 26.8* **400m:** J McKay (Glasgow) 57.7 **800m:** K Reece (Edinburgh) 2:34 8 **1,500m:** A Jones (Glasgow) 5:27.7 **5,000m:** L McNeil (Strathclyde) 18.55 8. **Hurdles: 110m:** H Johnson (Glasgow) 19.0 **400m:** S Johns (Glasgow) 82 4 ***High jump:*** L Rankin (Strathclyde) 1.40m **Pole vault:** J Marshall (Edinburgh) 2 90m **Long jump:** L Whigham (Strathclyde) 4 88m **Shot:** J Loney (Aberdeen) 8.86m **Discus:** N Dhaliwal (Glasgow) 40 25m **Hammer:** J Loney *(Aberdeen)* 32.48m ***Javelin:*** *J Overend* (Glasgow) 30 31m. **Relay: 4 x 110m:** Strathclyde 54 6 **4 x 400m:** Glasgow 4:15 3.
KINGSTON: Kinnaird Trophy: 100m: R Fujmon (St Mary's College) 11sec. **200m:** R Fujmon (St Mary's College) 22 3. **400m:** B Conteh (Puma TVH) 49 8 **800m:** J Goodwin (St Mary's University) 1:56 3 **1,500m:** T Antao (Windsor, Slough & Eton) 4 01 8 **3,000m:** P Haarer (Achilles) 8:58 2 **2,000m steeplechase:** A Fooks *(St Mary's College)* 6 00.2. **Hurdles: 110m:** S Hunt (Sutton) 16 0 **400m:** J Parker (Achilles) 56 3. **Relay: 4 x 100m:** Windsor, Slough and Eton 45 4. **4 x 400m:** St Mary's College 3 24 8 **Match result:** 1, Achilles 250pts; 2, Kingston and Polytechnic 163; 3, Windsor, Slough and Eton (holders) 152; 4, Puma TVH 124; 5, St Mary's College 112; 6, Sutton 58, 7, Blackheath 43; 8, Hercules Wimbledon 34
KINGSTON: Sward Trophy: High jump: A Fernandez (Puma TVH) 1.90m **Pole vault:** S Tolson (Blackheath) 3 70m. **Long jump:** G Chidlow (Achilles) 6 80m. **Triple jump:** A Page (Kingston and Polytechnic) 13 11m **Shot:** *P Faber (Achilles) 16 76m* **Discus:** P Faber (Achilles) 45 88m **Hammer:** G Cook (Sutton) 57.55m. **Javelin:** L Hauslin (Puma TVH) 51 78m. **Match result:** 1, Achilles 200pts, 2, Sutton 156; 3, Kingston and Polytechnic (holders) 106; 4, Puma TVH 92, 5, Windsor, Slough and Eton 83; 6, St Mary's College 78; 7, Hercules Wimbledon 74, 8, Blackheath 40
WOODFORD: Inter-club meeting: Men: 100m: G Munroe (Royal Air Force) 11 3sec. **200m:** G Hedman (Woodford Green and Essex Ladies) 22 7 **400m:** G Hedman (Woodford Green and Essex Ladies) 49 0 **800m:** *R Nixon (Ilford) 1:58.3.* ***1,500m:*** *M Rainage* (Royal Air Force) 4 17.2, **3,000m:** A Turnbull (Royal Air Force) 9:04 5 **2,000m:** T Watson (Royal Navy) 5.58 2 **Hurdles: 100m:** G Evans (Royal Air Force) 16 0 **400m:** A Parnah (Woodford Green) 55 8 **High jump:** *G Dyball (Woodford Green)* 1 95m **Pole vault:** R Kingham (Royal Air Force) 4 60m **Long jump:** G Munroe (Royal Air Force) 6.94m **Triple jump:** R Susaslis (North London) 15.07m. **Shot:** M Proctor (Royal Air Force) 19 60m **Discus:** M Proctor (Royal Air Force) 49 48m. **Hammer:** R Earle (Woodford Green & Essex Ladies 55 30m **Javelin:** D Barros (Ilford) 51 31m **Relay: 4 x 100m:** Woodford Green and Essex Ladies 45 3 **4 x 400m:** Woodford Green and Essex Ladies 3 32.5 **Match result:** 1, Royal Air Force 268pts; 2, Woodford Green and Essex Ladies 198; 3, Royal Navy 154: 4, Dartford 131; 5, Ilford 117, 6, Havering Mayesbrook 96, 7, Enfield and Haringey 62, 8, North London 54; 9, Basildon 16. **Women: 100m:** D Cousins (Basildon) 12.6 ***200m:*** *D Cousins (Basildon) 26.71* **500m:** K Wilder (Oxford University) 4:41.6 **400m:** J Pearce (Royal Air Force) 61.4 **800m:** S Semper (Ilford) 2:16 5 **High jump:** S Hogan (Oxford University) 1 50m **Long jump:** C Ridgley (Oxford University) 4 79m. **Shot:** *R Vavilova (Oxford University)* 1 59m **Relay: 4 x 100m:** Oxford University *56.2* **Match result:** 1, Oxford University 77pts; 2, Woodford Green and Essex Ladies 42, 3, Royal Air Force 38, 4, Basildon 12; 5, Ilford 6, 7, Enfield and Haringey 5.

Road walking

IMBER COURT, East Molesey: Ryan Cup 10km: 1, N Carmody (Police) 47min 53sec, 2, S Uttley (Civil Service) 49:48, 3, J Hall (Civil Service) 51 35 **Teams:** 1, Civil Service 14pts; 2, Police 24
IMBER COURT, East Molesey: British Police 10km championship: 1, N Carmody (Metropolitan) 47m1 53sec, 2, K Worth (West Midlands) 56.3', 3, G Jones (West Midlands) 57:14 **Teams:** 1, West Midlands 10

RUGBY UNION

Allied Dunbar Premiership

First division

Harlequins 29 Bedford 16
Harlequins: Tries: Luger, O'Leary, Williams **Con:** Schuster. **Pens:** Schuster 4 **Bedford: Try:** Underwood **Con:** Yapp **Pens:** Yapp 3 **HT:** 9-6. **Att:** 3.838.

Leicester 25 Saracens 18
Leicester: Try: Corry **Con:** Stimpson **Pens:** Stimpson 6 **Saracens: Pens:** Johnson 6 ***HT:*** *22-12* ***Att:*** *14,833*

London Irish 47 Bath 22
London Irish: Tries: Todd 3, Berridge, Burrows, Hardwick, O'Shea **Cons:** O'Shea 3 **Pens:** O'Shea 2. **Bath: Tries:** Catt, Regan, Tindall **Cons:** Catt 2 **Pen:** Catt **HT:** 25-10 **Att:** 6.600

Northampton 44 London Scot 13
Northampton: Tries: Pountney 2, Beal, Dawson, Lam, Moir **Cons:** A Hepher 4 **Pens:** A Hepher 2 **London Scottish: Try:** McAusland **Con:** De Beer **Pens:** De Beer 2 **HT:** 13-3 **Att:** 7.108

Wasps 34 Newcastle 33
Wasps: Tries: Lewsey, Molloy, Wood **Cons:** Molloy 2 **Pens:** Molloy 4 **Dropped goal:** Molloy **Newcastle: Tries:** Tuigamala 2, Wilkinson **Cons:** Wilkinson 3 **Pens:** Wilkinson 4 **HT:** 16-16. **Att:** 5,319

W Hartlepool 35 Richmond 36
W Hartlepool: Tries: Mullins, Vile **Cons:** Vile 2. **Pens:** Vile 7 **Richmond: Tries:** Best, Williams, Wright **Cons:** Va'a 3 **Pens:** Va'a 5 **HT:** 9-19 **Att:** 1,000

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Leicester	23	19	0	4	637	357	38
Northampton	*22*	*16*	*0*	*6*	*610*	*446*	*32*
London Irish	24	14	0	10	646	560	28
Bath	22	13	0	9	536	480	26
Wasps	22	12	1	9	596	439	25
Saracens	21	12	1	8	601	470	25
Harlequins	20	11	1	8	508	497	23
Newcastle	21	11	0	10	562	526	22
*Richmond	20	10	2	8	535	541	20
Gloucester	*22*	*8*	*1*	*13*	*462*	*513*	*17*
Sale	23	8	1	14	540	639	17
London Scot	23	7	0	16	430	599	14
Bedford	22	5	0	17	438	656	10
W Hartlepool	21	3	1	17	389	767	7

* Richmond deducted 2pts

REMAINING MATCHES: Leicester: April 24: v Sale (a). **May 2:** v Newcastle (a) **May 16:** v West Hartlepool (h). **Northampton: April 24:** v Bedford (a) **May 1:** v Bath (h) **May 8:** v Richmond (a) **May 15:** v Gloucester (a)

LEADING SCORERS: 310: J Schuster (Harlequins, 5 tries, 30 conversions, 74 penalty goals, 1 dropped goal). **247:** M Catt (Bath, 4t, 37c, 51pg) **247:** G Johnson (Saracens, 7t, 40c, 44pg) **236:** J Wilkinson (Newcastle, 7t, 42c, 39pg) **222:** *K Logan (Wasps 6t, 27c, 46pg)* **209:** S Howarth (Sale, 6t 37c, 35pg, 1dg) **202:** J Stransky (Leicester, 7t, 34c, 33pg) **199:** N Woods (London Irish, 11t, 24c, 32pg) **187:** E Va'a (Richmond 7t, 31c, 30pg) **Tries: 12:** S *Hanley (Sale), P Lam (Northampton)* ***11:*** *N* Back (Leicester), R Underwood (Bedford), Woods

Second division

Exeter 24 Rotherham 35
Exeter: Tries: Armstrong, Woodman **Con:** B Easson **Pens:** B Easson 4 **Rotherham: Tries:** Lax, Pan, Trivella, Umaga, Wade **Cons:** Trivella 2 **Pens:** Trivella 2 **HT:** 16-16 **Att:** 2,000

Fylde 39 Bristol 43
Fylde: Tries: Evans 2, Ireland, Loxton, Tetlow. **Cons:** Loxton 4 **Pens:** Loxton 2. **Bristol: Tries:** Nabaro 2, Robinson 2, C Evans, Hull, Nissen **Con:** Hull. **Pens:** Hull 2 **HT:** *15-18*

Leeds 50 Moseley 8
Leeds: Tries: S Easterby 2, Savemutto 2, Denham, Fourie, Middleton, Scales **Cons:** Tupuiotu 5 **Moseley: Try:** Brading. **Pen:** S Binns **HT:** 19-3 **Att:** 287

London Welsh 71 Blackheath 22
London Welsh: **Tries:** Woodard 4, Mardon 3, Carr, Cumer, Millward, Storey. **Cons:** Raymond 8 **Blackheath: Tries:** Clarke, D Merlin, Percival **Cons:** Amor 2 **Pen:** Amor **HT:** 38-10 **Att:** 1,300

Rugby 29 Orrell 41
Rugby: Tries: Bale, M Davies, Tarbuck, Vaega, Withers **Cons:** M Davies 2 **Orrell: Tries:** Verbickas 2, Wynn 2, Newton, Ryan, Warr **Cons:** Verbickas 3 **HT:** 17-15 **Att:** 600

Waterloo 24 Coventry 25
Waterloo: Tries: Morris 2, Holt **Cons:** L Griffiths 3 **Pen:** L Griffiths **Coventry: Tries:** Dawson, Gough, Smallwood **Cons:** Gough 2 **Pens:** Gough 2 **HT:** 21-20

Worcester 67 Wakefield 19
Worcester: Tries: Baxter 3, McLaughlin 2, Crisp, Goodwin, Harvey, John, Liley, Lloyd, Turner **Cons:** Lofthouse 6 **Wakefield: Tries:** Dixon, Shine, Summers **Cons:** Ashworth 2 **HT:** 36-19 **Att:** 2,600

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bristol	23	19	0	4	747	377	38
Rotherham	23	19	0	4	650	306	38
*Worcester	23	18	0	5	661	327	34
Leeds	23	14	0	9	581	309	28
London Welsh	*23*	*14*	*0*	*9*	*584*	*512*	*28*
Exeter	24	13	1	10	532	530	27
Coventry	23	12	0	11	557	500	24
Waterloo	23	12	0	11	388	487	24
Orrell	23	10	0	13	447	408	20
Moseley	23	9	0	14	448	539	18
Rugby	23	9	0	14	372	520	18
Wakefield	23	5	0	18	405	701	10
Fylde	23	4	1	18	320	729	9
Blackheath	24	3	0	21	349	796	6

* Worcester deducted 2pts

LEADING SCORERS: 270: S Gough (Coventry, 10 tries, 41 conversions, 46 penalty goals) **228:** S Tupuiotu (Leeds 3t, 33c, 49pg) **222:** B Easson (Exeter 2t, 34c, 48pg) **190:** L Griffiths (Waterloo, 2t, 24c, 44pg). **162:** M Davies (Rugby, 3t, 21c, 35pg) **152:** S Verbickas (Orrell, 6t, 19c, 28pg) **Tries: 16:** B Wade (Rotherham) *14: A Cumer (London Welsh), D Lax* (Rotherham)

Jewson National League

First division

B'ham/Solihull 8 Henley 22
B'ham/Solihull: Try: Allen **Pen:** M Birch. **Henley: Try:** Parton **Con:** Roke **Pens:** Roke 5 **HT:** 8-16

Harrogate 17 Nottingham 21
Harrogate: Tries: *Baker, Farrar, Reed* **Con:** Zong **Nottingham: Tries:** Beatham, Bygrave, Spencer **Pens:** C Atkinson 2 **HT:** 10-16

Liverpool St H 17 Camberley 50
Liverpool St Helens: Tries: M Sephton, Topping, Waite **Con:** Worsley **Camberley: Tries:** Slater 2, Stafford 2, Hughes, Russell, Thompson **Cons:** G Gregory 6 **Pen:** G Gregory **HT:** 12-38

Newbury 39 Otley 20
Newbury: Tries: C Davies, Farr, Graham, Kellam, Kingdon, Pohippi **Cons:** Graham 3. **Pen:** Graham. **Otley: Tries:** Smith 2, Hartley **Con:** D Clappison. **Pen:** D Clappison. **HT:** 20-15.

Reading 31 Lydney 37
Reading: Tries: Mallard, Muckalt, Underwood. **Cons:** Dance 2 **Pens:** Dance 4 **Lydney: Tries:** S Edwards 2, Osborne, penalty try, Turner **Cons:** Osborne 3 **Pens:** Osborne 2. ***HT:*** *12-10*

Rosslyn Park 42 Morley 19
Rosslyn Park: Tries: Benson, Cooke, Fanning, Hayes, Marval, C Ritchie **Cons:** T Knowles 3 **Pens:** T Knowles 2. **Morley:** ***Tries:*** *Nawalura 2, Standeven.* **Cons:** Standeven 2 **HT:** 35-14.

Wharfedale 30 Manchester 30
Wharfedale: Tries: G Harrison, Lawn, Venly **Cons:** Pears 3 **Pens:** Pears 3. **Manchester: Tries:** Swindells 2, Hewson. **Cons:** Swindells 3 **Pens:** Swindells 3 **HT:** 13-17 **Att:** 600

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Henley	26	22	1	3	642	298	45
Manchester	26	20	1	5	758	372	41
Rosslyn Park	26	17	1	8	588	371	35
Nottingham	26	16	0	10	590	467	32
Otley	26	15	1	10	508	416	31
Newbury	*26*	*14*	*1*	*11*	*552*	*476*	*29*
Wharfedale	26	13	1	12	477	421	27
Lydney	26	11	2	13	438	482	24
Camberley	26	10	1	15	529	661	21
Reading	26	10	0	16	468	635	20
B'ham/Solihull	26	9	0	17	422	521	18
Harrogate	*26*	*8*	*2*	*16*	*309*	*461*	*18*
Morley	26	7	1	18	468	643	15
Liverpool St H	26	4	0	22	335	859	8

FINAL LEADING SCORERS: 365: S Swindells (Manchester, 7 tries, 60 conversions, 70 penalty goals, 48% of club's total points in league). **265:** C Atkinson (Nottingham 2t, 33c, 63pg, 45%) **236:** D Pears (Wharfedale, 5t, 24c 50pg, 4 dropped gols, 49%) **221:** G Gregory (Camberley, 2t, 3c, 50pg, 1dg, 42%). **196:** J Dance (Reading, *1t, 28c, 45pg, 42%)* ***175:*** *M Birch* (Birmingham/Solihull, 2t, 30c, 35pg 41%). **131** D Clappison (Otley, 33c, 23pg, 1dg, 2%). **119:** T Bamber (Morley, 1t, 24c, 21pg, 1dg: 25%) **Tries: 15:** L Filipo (Otley). A Standeven (Morley) **14:** P Davies (Henley) **1:** A Royer (Nottingham) **12:** D Muckalt (Reading). **Dropped goals: 5:** S Jack (Nottingham), P Osman (Henley) **4:** Pears **3:** R Iiss (Manchester).

SECOND DIVISION NORTH: Hinckley 22 *New Brighton 29; Kendal 44 Walsall 8 Lichfield 0* Stourbridge 74, Sandal 11 Preston Grasshoppers 36, Sedgley Park 55 Aspatria 19 Sheffield 13 Winnington Park 3, Whitchurch 35 Nuneaton 3.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Preston G	26	23	0	3	822	341	46
Stourbridge	26	22	0	4	895	413	44
N Brighton	26	20	0	6	703	329	40
Kendal	26	18	0	8	635	347	36
Nuneaton	26	14	2	10	597	533	30
Sheffield	*26*	*15*	*0*	*11*	*496*	*456*	*30*
Sandal	26	13	0	13	697	611	26
Sedgley Pk	26	12	1	13	710	553	25
Walsall	26	10	1	15	515	720	21
Aspatria	26	10	0	16	578	675	20
Whitchurch	26	9	1	16	450	599	19
Hinckley	26	7	1	18	445	733	15
Lichfield	26	3	0	23	371	950	6
Winnington Pk	26	3	0	23	310	965	6

SECOND DIVISION SOUTH: Bracknell 19 Cheltenham 3. Havant 32 Bridgwater 14, Met Police 8 Clifton 14, Norwich 23 Barking 15; Redruth 17 North Walsham 34, Tabard 13 Esher 27. Weston-super-Mare 17 Plymouth 34

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bracknell	26	23	1	2	631	317	47
Esher	26	23	0	3	884	308	46
N Walsham	26	22	0	4	627	306	44
Barking	26	19	1	6	644	327	39
Met Police	26	14	1	11	470	545	29
Norwich	26	11	0	15	383	429	22
Clifton	26	10	1	15	415	483	21
Tabard	26	9	1	16	461	501	19
Weston-s-M	26	9	1	16	417	588	19
Bridgwater	26	8	2	16	462	624	18
Redruth	26	8	1	17	503	654	17
Plymouth	26	7	1	18	457	666	15
Cheltenham	26	7	0	19	335	608	14
Havant	26	7	0	19	351	674	14

NPI CUP: Final: Aldwinians 21 Dudley Kingswinford 10
TETLEY'S BITTER VASE: Final: Billericay 19 Silhillians 3
SOUTH WEST: Barnstaple 34 Stroud 5. Keynsham 14 Berry Hill 20. Launceston 84 Gloucester OB 17: *Matson 19 Old Patesians* 14. Penzance/Newlyn 131 Torquay Athletic 5, Salisbury 22 Maidenhead 47.
MIDLANDS: Camp Hill 18 Mansfield 5; Wolverhampton 13 Westleigh 31
NORTH: Blaydon 8 Stockton 7, Bridlington *14 Hull Ionians 18, Doncaster 33 Northern* 3: Macclesfield 16 Tynedale 14, Middlesbrough 46 Wigton 11, Widnes 20 Broughton Park 20.

SWALEC Cup

Semi-finals

Llanelli 39 Cardiff 10
Llanelli: Tries: penalty try, Quinnell, Voyle **Cons:** Hayward 3. **Pens:** Hayward 6 **Cardiff: Try:** Morgan **Con:** Jarvis **Pen:** Jarvis. **HT:** 19-10

(at Bridgend)

Swansea 60 Cross Keys 3
Swansea: Tries: M Robinson 3, Rees 2, Maullin, Taylor, D Thomas **Cons:** Arwel Thomas 6, L Davies **Pens:** Arwel Thomas 2 **Cross Keys: Dropped goal:** D Rees. **HT:** 38-3

(at Pontypridd)

Welsh League

First division

Blackwood 33 *Merthyr* 25
Blackwood: Tries: Heard, L Johnson, G Rees, J Simms **Cons:** Brown 2 **Pens:** Brown 3 **Merthyr: Tries:** Bryant, penalty try, Roach, R Sidoli **Cons:** J Lloyd 3. **Pen:** J Lloyd **HT:** 20-15.

Dunvant 45 Treorchy 27
Dunvant: Tries: Manasentava 2, G Davies, Glover, Killa, Rees, L Williams **Cons:** M Thomas 3, Daniel. **Pen:** M Thomas **Treorchy: Tries:** Camboume, Chick, Corderley, Riggs **Cons:** D Evans 2 **Pen:** D Evans **HT:** 12-20

Tondu 20 Llandovery 29
Tondu: Tries: K Hocking 2, Folana **Con:** Howells **Pen:** Howells. **Llandovery: Tries:** *T Lewis 2*, C Davies, P Davies **Cons:** A Williams 3. **Pen:** A Williams. **HT:** 5-7.

Pontypool 67 Maesteg 3
Pontypool: Tries: Bishop 2, M Cawley 2, Field 2, Brown, James, Silva, Simms, J Thomas. **Cons:** Silva 6. **Maesteg: Pen:** P Davies **HT:** 17-3

Rumney 10 Bonymaen 19
Rumney: Try: Folana. **Con:** Mason **Pen:** Mason **Bonymaen: Tries:** G Jones 2, Hawkins **Cons:** S Davies 2. **HT:** 3-7

Tredegar 25 Abertillery 24
Tredegar: Try: Nolan **Con:** M Jones. **Pens:** M Jones 3 **Dropped goals:** M Jones 3 **Abertillery: Tries:** Boyd 2 **Con:** Withers **Pens:** Withers 4 **HT:** 15-9

UWIC 20 Newbridge 28
UWIC: Tries: P Jones, Rutley, Trevorrow. **Con:** Welch **Pen:** Welch **Newbridge: Tries:** Ponyment 2, Addis, Pritit. **Cons:** Williams 4 **HT:** 17-7

SECOND DIVISION: Abercynon *29* Wrexham 7; Kenfig Hill 24 Rhymney 31; Mountain Ash 16 Oakdale 23, Narberth 11 Tenby Utd 15, Pyle 10 Ystradgynlais 8; St Peters 28 Llantrisant 23, Whitland 15 Llanharan 20

Tennent's Velvet Premiership

First division

Currie 35 Watsonians 21
Currie: Tries: Armstrong, Barrett, Bowie, Caldwell, Snedden **Cons:** Barrett 5. **Watsonians: Tries:** S Hastings **Con:** Aitchison. **Pens:** Aitchison 3. ***HT:*** *2-14.*

THIRD DIVISION: Glenrothes 29 Stewart's Mel FP 19, Gordonians 2 Grangemouth 15
AIB LEAGUE: First division: Blackrock 33 Ballymena 13, Buccaneers 14 Lansdowne 11, Cork Constitution 26 Shannon 19; Galwegians *10 St Mary's* 17, Terenure 18 Clontarf 32; Young Munster 13 Garryowen 29 **Second division:** Derry 25 Malone 19; Greystones 53 Ballynahinch 0; Old Crescent 18 Old Belvedere 29; Old Wesley 20 Bective Rangers 22, Portadown 1 DLSP 30, Skerries 27 Dungannon 34, Wanderers 37 Sunday's Well 15; UCC 14 Dolphin 29.
FRENCH CHAMPIONSHIP: Pool A: Agen 21 Bourgoin 16, Biarritz 15 Toulouse 10 **Pool B:** Stade Français 49 Pau 13, Colomiers 14 *Narbonne 8.* ***Pool C:*** *Perpignan* 34 Begles-Bordeaux 20, Castres 41 Dax 18 **Pool D:** Montferrand 11 Toulon 14, Grenoble 29 Brive 20.
SUPER 12 TOURNAMENT: Saturday: Queensland 19 Otago 20; ACT 27 *New South Wales 16, Auckland 24 Golden Cats* 11, Coastal Sharks 29 Northern Bulls 0 **Yesterday:** Stormers 29 Canterbury 19.
INTERNATIONAL MATCH: Argentina 49 Rest of the World XV 31 (in Buenos Aires)

MOTOR SPORT

Plato earns reward for slick display

By Kevin Eason

FORTUNE *favours the brave and* Jason Plato yesterday capitalised on the uncertainty of his rivals to put himself in contention for the *Auto Trader* British touring car championship (BTCC). While the rest dithered and agonised whether to change tyres as the clouds rolled in over Silverstone, Plato just got on with it. He led from the start of the main feature race and, apart from a fright when he was nudged by the Volvo of Rickard Rydell, the Englishman was never troubled on his way to a surprise victory.

The day provided another boost for the minority contingent of British drivers in this series, with James Thompson doing enough to retain the lead in the overall championship. Plato is second followed Matt Neal, the independent driver who won £250,000 last time out as the first privateer to win a BTCC race. There was no fat cheque yesterday for Neal's Team Dynamics, just a hard dose of reality and a blown engine. "You have to have bad luck as well as good," Neal said. "So I suppose I had to expect that things might not go entirely my way."

Plato certainly never expected to be so well placed in the championship thanks to a victory that upset the pre-race formbook. The Nissan Primeras had showed remarkable pace all weekend and, after a one-two in the 15-lap sprint for Laurent Aiello and David Leslie, they were expected to dominate the crucial 30-lap event.

Plato, meanwhile, spent the day playing down his chances, insisting that his Renault Laguna was still *not fully prepared after it was late* in development over the winter.

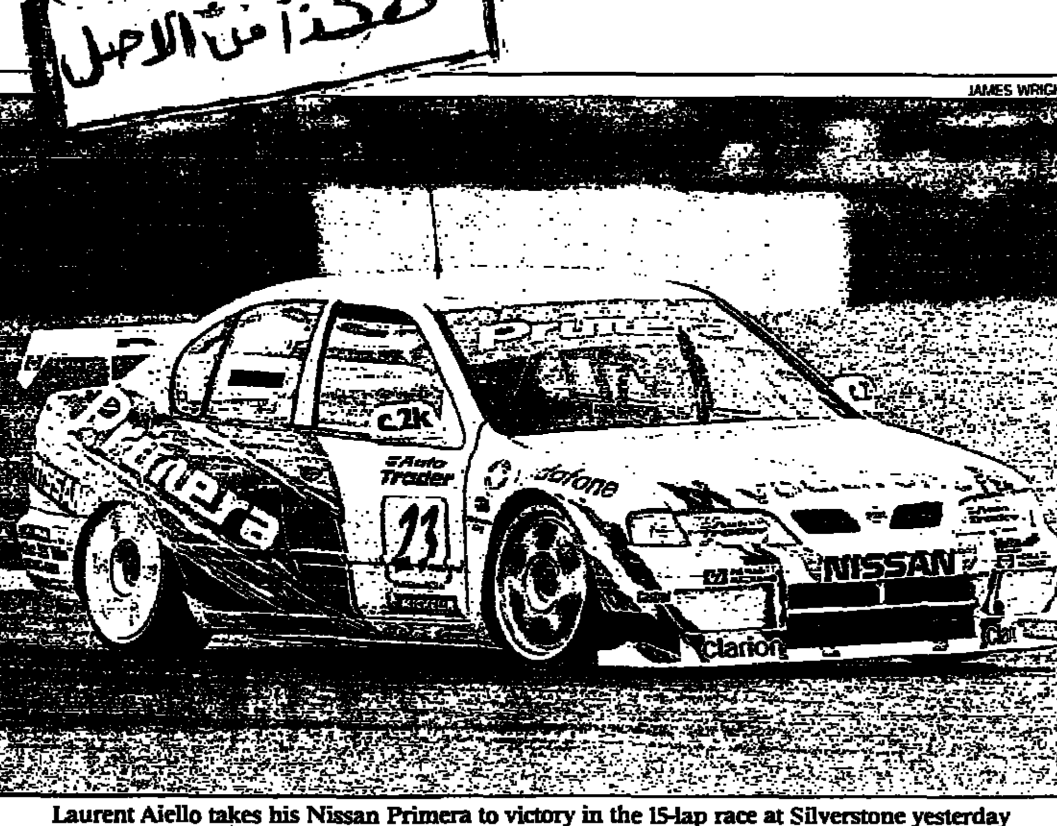
Plato, 31, found himself as team leader for this season after Alain Menu, the 1997 champion, joined Ford. Then he arrived at Silverstone in low spirits after the sudden death of his mentor, Martin Sharpe, the head of Mardi Gras Motorsport, who revived Plato's flagging career by putting him into the Renault Spider championship in 1996. Plato went on to win the title, which was the springboard to the Renault touring car team.

"I *am so pleased for the team* after all that has happened over the winter and then there was the news of Martin," Plato said. "The weather obviously helped today and I had the chance to take advantage." As the cars lined up, the rain forced the brave, like Plato, to play their poker hand, staying on slicks and gamble that they would have enough grip to survive until the track dried. Leslie, Neal and Thompson, however, all came in for intermediate rubber, choosing to start from the pitlane and hoping that they would cut through the field.

From fourth on the grid, Plato charged between Rydell and Aiello to grab the lead and stayed there. Behind him, Aiello fell away and Leslie struggled. Neal, too, failed to make headway, although Thompson powered through the backmarkers and even a long pitstop to take on four fresh slicks failed to hold him back.

After broken steering ended the challenge of Rydell, the champion, Plato just had to stay on the circuit *to win. Thompson says he will win* the championship if he is consistent. That was his fourth time in the points in four races and that is championship form.

Results, page 40



JAMES WRIGHT

Laurent Aiello takes his Nissan Primera to victory in the 15-lap race at Silverstone yesterday

Ecclestone seeks rally revolution

By Jeremy Hart

TOMMI MAKINEN, the winner of three world championships, has welcomed the news that Bernie Ecclestone will inject £75 million into motor rallying over the next five years in an attempt to lift the sport's profile closer to that of Formula One.

"I'm very happy to hear that," Makinen said on the eve of the Catalonia Rally on the Costa Brava. "Rallying needs Mr Ecclestone's input. He has done a great job with Formula One and for some of the success to come to rallying would be fantastic."

In Great Britain, rallying is available only to viewers of Eurosport, the satellite channel, although a deal to show it on BBC television is expected to be signed shortly.

Ecclestone, the Formula One ringmaster, armed with a budget of £15 million a year, will use his television expertise from Formula One to simplify the way in which rallying can be followed.

"With F1, you can see more or less where everyone is," Ecclestone said. "We have to try and get that across with rallying. I plan to have a central place for the rally to be based, then have [the rally cars follow] one route one day and later come back down the one they've just gone up."

Another new proposal is the televising of some of the final timed stages that make up a rally, offering three world championship points to the stage winner and a chance to reinstate cars that may have previously retired. The first of these events will be aired during the Corsica Rally next month.

"Rallying has the potential to be a good product," Ecclestone said. "Nothing is a threat to F1, but rallying is completely different. I don't know if it's going to work, but I didn't know what the potential of F1 was before I started."

In Spain yesterday, Colin McRae declared his new slimline Ford Focus a potential winner of the Catalonia Rally. Ford have shaved 40 kilos from the car that the Scot drove to victory in Kenya and Portugal to make it more competitive on the mountain roads north of Barcelona. "The difference is quite marked," McRae, *who is suffering from flu, said.* "The weight saved makes it better under braking and acceleration."

If McRae is off the pace, there are three drivers capable of stealing the limelight. Makinen is a former winner in Spain, as is Carlos Sainz, of Spain, while the Subaru of Richard Burns should be suited to the tarmac.

SPORT IN BRIEF

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: Scottish Claymores left it late to win their opening game of the NFL Europe season against Rhein Fire at Murrayfield yesterday (Richard Wetherell writes). A six-yard touchdown run by Dameyune Craig, their quarterback, with less than two minutes remaining, brought the scores level at 20-20 and Rob Hart, an Englishman, kicked *the conversion to secure victory against the champions.*

It was the only time that the Claymores were in front. They fell 7-0 behind in the first quarter, but Yo Murphy caught a 29-yard pass from Craig to level the scores. Fire went 20-7 ahead, but Matt Finkes brought Claymores back with a touchdown, which Hart converted, and Craig's touchdown and Hart's kick clinched it.

SWIMMING: China's preparations for the Olympic Games in Sydney in 2000 are concentrated on taking a "clean squad" to Sydney, even at the expense of gold medals, a high-ranking sports official told Chinese state media said yesterday. The national swimming association's target is for China's representatives to win one gold medal in the women's events and any medal in the men's. China's women swimmers won one gold, three silver and two bronze at the 1996 Games.

REAL TENNIS: Penny Lumley, the world champion, underlined her dominance when she retained the Harvey Joseph British Open women's title at Holyport, beating Kae Leeming, the Australian professional, in straight sets (Sally Jones writes). Lumley, on her home court, did not drop a set throughout the event and outrallied Charlotte Cornwallis, the much-improved British professional, in the semi-finals.

TENNIS: Felix Mantilla, right, defeated Karim Alami, of Morocco, 7-6, 6-3, 6-3, to win the Barcelona Open yesterday and delight the home crowd. Mantilla took *a 4-0 lead over Alami,* the world No 83, before the Moroccan recovered to force a tie-break. In the second set, *Mantilla* broke for 5-3 to claim the set and the Spaniard took the third in similar style.



CYCLING: Frank Vandenbroucke fulfilled his billing as Belgium's most exciting talent since Eddy Merckx with victory in the oldest one-day classic of the professional season, the Liège-Bastogne-Liège race, yesterday. Vandenbroucke, consistently highly placed in the spring classics this year, attacked six kilometres from the finish in the Liège suburbs to claim his first win in the race.

NETBALL: Bedfordshire have won the inter-county tournament for the first time, beating Derbyshire 17-15 in the final at the Acklam Sports Centre in *Middlesbrough* yesterday (Cathy Harris writes). It was third time lucky for Bedfordshire after beating Middlesex, the holders, in the semi-final, while Derbyshire beat Essex Met, the pre-tournament favourites.

CRICKET: *Glenn McGrath, the Australia pace bowler,* twisted his ankle in the third one-day international defeat by West Indies on Saturday and was ruled out of the fourth meeting yesterday. West Indies went 2-1 up in the seven-match series as Jimmy Adams, Sherwin Campbell and Carl Hooper made half-centuries in West Indies' successful chase for a target of 243, reached with five wickets and an over to spare.

SATURDAY'S RACING RESULTS

Newbury

Going: good to firm

2.00 1, **Grinkov** (10-1), 2, *High And Mighty* (6-1 fav), 3, Fung Denus (8-1), 4, King Priam (14-1): 22 ran.

2.30 1, **Sadian** (5-1), 2, The Glow-Worm (11-1), 3, Shaya (33-1). Capri 15-8 fav. 11 ran.

3.00 1, **Enrique** (5-4 fav): 2, Exeat (7-2), 3, Perugino Bay (33-1). 7 ran.

3.30 1, **Bomb Alaska** (12-1), 2, Topaton (13-1), 3, Radar (16-1), 4, Panter (9-2 fav). 19 ran. NR: *Right Wing*.

4.00 1, **Ela Athena** (25-1), 2, Thermopylae (7-1), 3, Misne Song (14-1). First Night 9-4 fav. 12 ran.

4.30 1, **Alrassaam** (33-1), 2, Killer Instinct (2-5 fav), 3, Tobruk (5-1). 13 ran. NR: Lake Sunbeam.

5.00 1, **Lucido** (9-1), 2, Oath (3-1), 3, Iscan (4-1). Cape Grace 9-4 fav. 8 ran. NR: Deal Fair.

Jackpot: Not won (£107,705.23 carried forward to Nottingham today)

Ayr

Going: soft

.55 1, **Norski Lad** (13-8 fav), 2, Thanks [illegible] (8-1), 3, Rajah (6-1). 6 ran.

.25 1, **Mike Stan** (11-2): 2, Carmel's Joy (50-1), 3, Jocks Cross (13-2). Riot Leader 5-1 fav. 13 ran.

.55 1, **Bouchasson** (50-1), 2, Scotia Nostra (12-1), 3, Irbee (7-2). Royal Predica 6-5 fav. 6 ran.

.25 1, **Fadalko** (4-1), 2, Potentale (3-1); 3, [illegible] Horse (5-4 fav). 4 ran.

.05 1, **Young Kenny** (5-2 fav), 2, Hollybank [illegible] (15-2), 3, Full of Oats (20-1). 15 ran.

.40 1, **Green Green Desert** (8-13 fav), 2, *[illegible] Dawn* (12-1); 3, Solsgirth (12-1). 5 ran.

.10 1, **Ballinclay King** (11-2), 2, Shotgun [illegible]lly (6-1), 3, Just Whiskey (12-1). Ireland's [illegible] 3-1 fav. 17 ran.

Thirsk

Going: good, good to soft in places

.50 1, **Prince of Aragon** (11-2), 2, Robeena (3-1), 3, *Breed Winner* (5-2). Forest Call 9-4 fav. 6 ran. NR: Sali, Starliner.

.20 1, **High Tatra** (1-3 fav), 2, Shaftisheyes (5-2), 3, Desert Fighter (7-1). 4 ran.

.50 1, **Diamond Promise** (15-8 fav), 2, Paradise Yangshuo (7-2), 3, Little Christian (12-1). [illegible] ran. NR: Bold Bounty.

.20 1, **Ocker** (12-1), 2, Ivory's Joy (16-1), 3, [illegible] Tun (5-1 fav), 4, Rudi's Pet (7-1). 23 ran. NR: *Blue Fantasy*.

.50 1, **Nigrasine** (11-1), 2, Eastern Purple (7-2), 3, Gaelic Storm (5-4 fav). 6 ran.

4.25 1, **Tissifer** (4-1), 2, Peculiarity (6-4 fav), 3, Elsawaasul (11-2). 6 ran.

4.55 1, **Hush Money** (7-4 fav), 2, Tamgeed (3-1); 3, Ameena (11-2). 7 ran. NR: Khalik, Wagga Moon.

5.25 1, **Queen's Pageant** (8-1), 2, Time of Night (8-1), 3, Chinaberry (10-1). Scene 5-4 fav. 10 ran.

Bangor

Going: hurdles good, chase good to soft

2.10 1, **Famil** (4-1 fav), 2, Baron Bill (9-2), 3, Mr Teddy Edwards (40-1). 14 ran.

2.40 1, **Menvulane** (14-1); 2, Amlwch (9-4), 3, Rodders (5-1). Charming Girl 6-4 fav. 7 ran. NR: Lucrative Perk.

3.10 1, **Vilprano** (15-2), 2, Prairie Minstrel (8-1), 3, Little Gunner (8-1). Zaheake 4-1 fav. 13 ran.

3.45 1, **Cedar Square** (3-1 fav), 2, Shanavogh (7-1), 3, Nosam (11-1). 11 ran.

4.15 1, *Tombola* (4-6 fav), 2, *Castle Court* (12-1), 3, Ardstown (11-1). 10 ran.

4.45 1, **Pharly Reef** (4-1 fav); 2, Eagle Canyon (5-1), 3, Marsh Marigold (20-1); 4, Pridewood Fuggle (16-1). 20 ran.

5.15 1, **Charter Ridge** (2-1), 2, Little Hearn (evens fav), 3, Glacial River (33-1). 12 ran. NR: Lambrini Lad, Red Hot Hebe.

Stratford

Going: good

2.35 1, **Temper Lad** (3-1 fav); 2, Ayem (13-2); 3, Spy Knoll (12-1). 14 ran. NR: Crickering, Gemstone.

3.05 1, **King's Whisper** (9-1), 2, No More Hassle (9-4); 3, Chatergold (33-1). River Dawn 5-4 fav. 16 ran.

3.35 1, **Esprit De Cotte** (7-4 fav); 2, Ourn about (4-1), 3, Accaderna (13-2). 15 ran. NR: Motel, Quibbling.

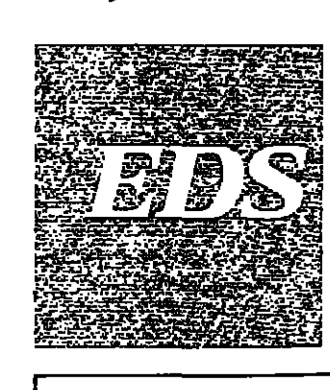
4.05 1, **Bengers Moor** (4-1), 2, Mr Conductor (8-1); 3, Steve Ford (12-1). Boardroom Shuffle 2-1 fav. 6 ran. NR: Capenwray, Destiny Calls, Father Rector, Gratomi, Pennybridge, Tight Fist.

4.35 1, **Destin d'Estruval** (6-4 fav), 2, Chism (8-1); 3, King Torus (9-4). 12 ran. NR: Act of Parliament, Cottage Counsel, Lord Keron, Shsand.

5.05 1, **Tissue of Lies** (6-1); 2, Alter Grace (100-30 fav), 3, Studio Thirty (6-1). 10 ran. NR: Serious, Storm Tiger, Time For Action, Truancy.

5.35 1, **Thinkers Effort** (11-2), 2, Bronhallow (9-1), 3, Anns Girl (9-4). Jim Jam Joey 2-1 fav. 12 ran. NR: Kerani, Mesp, Southernhey Boy, Stanmore, Strong Brew.

1,420 runners break three-hour barrier



Here exclusive in *The Times*, are the first finishers in the 1999 Flora London Marathon, including the 1,420 who broke the three-hour mark. The results are provided by EDS, official suppliers of computers to the race. The names and times of other finishers will be published this week.



MARC ASPLAND

Joyce Chepchumba, winner of the women's race, is congratulated by the runner-up, Adriana Fernandez

TOP 50 IN THE MEN'S RACE

1 A El Mouaziz 2:07:57	26 E Martin 2:17:22
2 A Pinto 2:09:00	27 D Buzza 2:17:39
3 A Anton 2:09:41	28 A Salvador 2:18:20
4 J Brown 2:09:44	29 L Da Silva 2:18:46
5 J Kiprono 2:09:48	30 D Radebe 2:19:31
6 G Leone 2:10:03	31 N Ndereva 2:19:40
7 A Juzdado 2:10:08	32 M Koerner 2:19:40
8 D Castro 2:10:24	33 T O'Brien 2:20:20
9 S Mphulanzane 2:10:56	34 P Williams 2:20:23
10 Y Yamamoto 2:11:13	35 C Perez 2:20:41
11 L Troop 2:11:21	36 H Hoffmann 2:21:15
12 B Lee 2:12:11	37 H Achmueller 2:21:34
13 T Gebrselassie 2:13:13	38 D Bilton 2:21:34
14 A Szalkai 2:13:19	39 A Shepherd 2:22:15
15 G Ruggiero 2:13:31	40 D Rathbone 2:22:30
16 T Negere 2:13:40	41 E Welch 2:22:34
17 R Da Costa 2:14:10	42 M Hutchinson 2:22:45
18 P Redmond 2:14:22	43 D Cavers 2:22:46
19 B Paredes 2:14:31	44 R Adams 2:22:49
20 P Arco 2:14:42	45 P Pocailaghan 2:22:59
21 J Chemobo 2:15:00	46 M Lemaiyan 2:23:11
22 M Hudspith 2:15:12	47 D Grover 2:23:13
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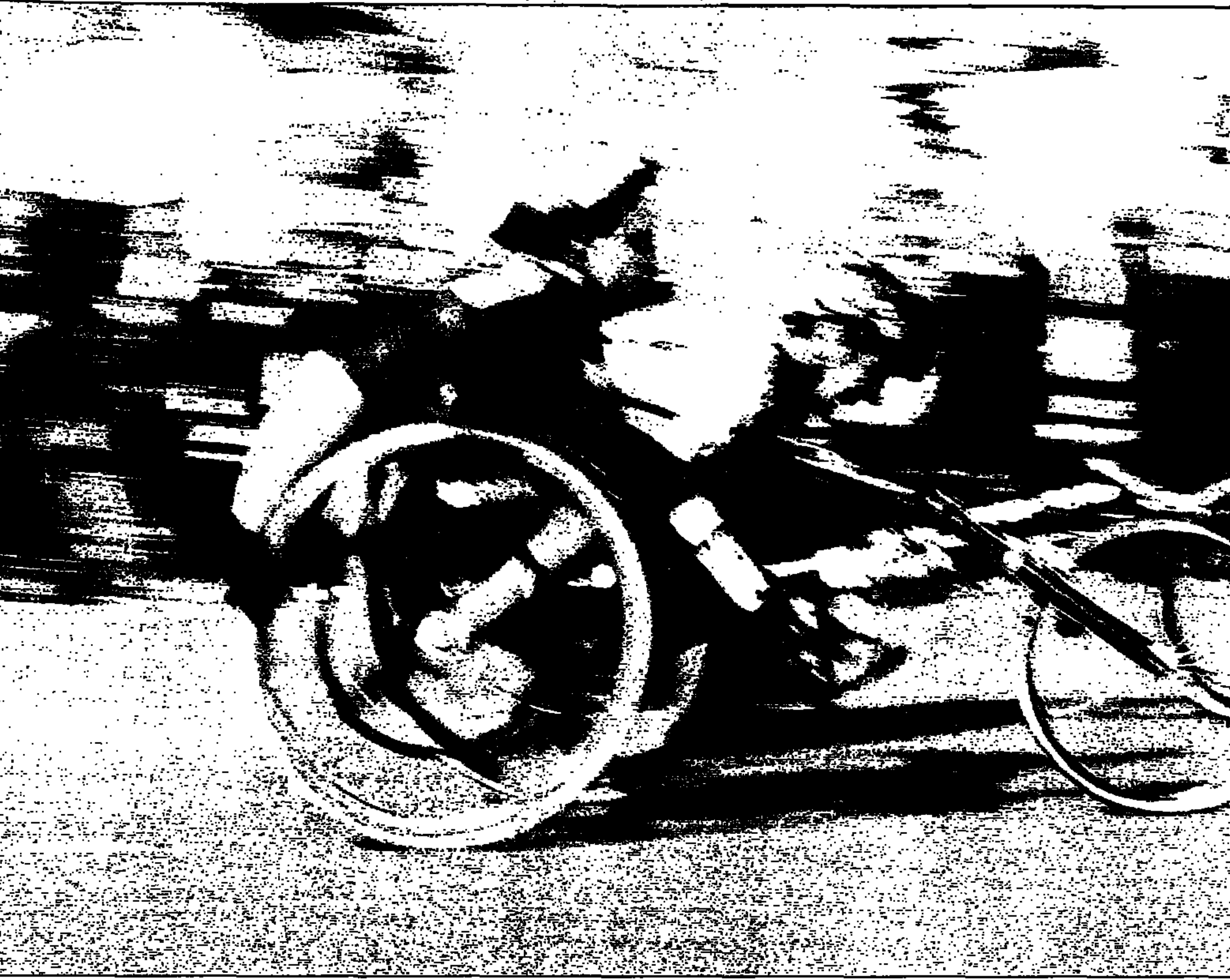
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2101—K Baird-murray 3:08:02; D Grant 3:08:02; I Farrow 3:08:02; M Hill 3:08:03; A Thomson 3:08:04; P Crow 3:08:04; C Doe 3:08:05; M Beecher 3:08:06; F Ward 3:08:06; C Aves *3:08:06; C Naylor 3:08:06*; J Ingram 3:08:07; B Marchetti 3:08:08; R Noke 3:08:08; A Evans 3:08:08; J Brand 3:08:09; M Stoker 3:08:09; D Spence 3:08:09; V Bringlow 3:08:09; D Doe 3:08:11; P Turley 3:08:11; I Ramsay 3:08:12; B Emmerson 3:08:13; P Traynor 3:08:14; M Ryffel 3:08:15; M Valentini 3:08:15; N Knights 3:08:16; P Dudfield 3:08:16; C Davies 3:08:16; J Mariette 3:08:16; J Wamsley 3:08:18; P Costas 3:08:18; C Williams 3:08:18; N Hamdadou 3:08:21; C Webb 3:08:21; N Cole 3:08:23; T Mitchell-smith 3:08:23; F Seistrup 3:08:24; G Kirby 3:08:24; S Loach 3:08:24; G King 3:08:26; P Shelley 3:08:26; S Bowles *3:08:28; P Kilvert 3:08:31*; M Emmett 3:08:31; K Stone 3:08:32; S Savage 3:08:32; R Mitcham 3:08:33; D Keilbach 3:08:33; B Plummer 3:08:33; H Jones 3:08:33; M Salolainen 3:08:33; P Darcy-evans 3:08:34; J Moorhead 3:08:35; M Murray 3:08:35; I Balchin 3:08:36; J Jones 3:08:36; N Brennan 3:08:37; C Beau 3:08:37; B Appleby 3:08:37; C Bailey 3:08:38; M Hulett 3:08:39; M Thomson 3:08:39; S Littlefair 3:08:40; A Gray 3:08:41; G Stewart 3:08:42; S Williams 3:08:43; A Jovine 3:08:43; I Carpenter 3:08:43; L Johns 3:08:44; L Cooper 3:08:45; J Maslinski 3:08:45; E Hill 3:08:45; D Smith 3:08:47; S Latus 3:08:47; *P Garcia-silva 3:08:47*; M Young 3:08:48; M Marre 3:08:49; V Northover 3:08:49; P Oconnor 3:08:49; P Willson 3:08:49; D Holmes 3:08:51; P Burton 3:08:51; G Bagnall 3:08:52; K Lyne De Ver 3:08:53; A Lindsay 3:08:53; A Walton 3:08:56; S Taylor 3:08:56; F Leal 3:08:57; D De Jaeger 3:09:00; C Cornwall 3:09:01; M Cornwall *3:09:01; K Moment 3:09:02; H Thomas 3:09:02*; J Philippe 3:09:02; G Webb 3:09:03; B Hampton 3:09:04; G Mathewson 3:09:04; A Fearnley 3:09:05; S Glaysher 3:09:05.

2201—M Taylor 3:09:05; T Garrity 3:09:05; J Gallagher 3:09:06; M Bentley 3:09:07; G Baughman 3:09:08; S Smith 3:09:08; S Candy 3:09:08; D Breen 3:09:09; P Hainsworth 3:09:09; R Davies 3:09:09; A Machin 3:09:09; S Turksma 3:09:10; G Jensen 3:09:11; N Lisle 3:09:11; J Reardon 3:09:12; C Crisp 3:09:12; S Meadows 3:09:13; F Rosin 3:09:13; S Elliott 3:09:14; P Basini-gazzi 3:09:14; M Redouble *3:09:14; G Mccormick 3:09:16*; S Hudson 3:09:16; M Carter 3:09:17; N Coates 3:09:18; B Lucas 3:09:19; C Malcomson 3:09:19; T Geary 3:09:19; S Mullan 3:09:20; B Langham 3:09:20; R Davidson 3:09:21; R Lenehan 3:09:21; S Gibbins 3:09:23; N Lloyd 3:09:23; C Riley 3:09:24; R Homes 3:09:24; N Warner 3:09:25; J Austin 3:09:25; S Rooney 3:09:25; *J Elliott 3:09:26*; M Small 3:09:26; K Wakerley 3:09:27; P Gregory 3:09:27; P Belcher 3:09:28; A Rickel 3:09:29; D Arnold 3:09:30; R Crebo 3:09:30; *P White 3:09:31*; K Firkin 3:09:32; S Flesch 3:09:32; S Bienkowski 3:09:32; *O Richardson 3:09:32*; C Aldous 3:09:33; D Hallenbarter 3:09:33; S Russell 3:09:33; G Scott 3:09:35; F Muurphy 3:09:35; P Mathieson 3:09:35; *S Stevens* 3:09:35; I Mmeeds 3:09:37; S Beer 3:09:37; D Evans 3:09:38; B George 3:09:38; J Blaine 3:09:38; J Sherman 3:09:38; J Smith 3:09:39; J Parsons 3:09:39; G Scott 3:09:39; K Pearson 3:09:40; A Lamali 3:09:40; S Harrison 3:09:41; C Rawlings 3:09:42; G Jones 3:09:43; G Funnell 3:09:43; M Hill 3:09:44; H Hoegen 3:09:45; K Thornton 3:09:46; C Davies 3:09:46; G Millard 3:09:49; G Mullaney 3:09:50; A Harrison 3:09:50; M Schnuriger 3:09:50; M Cain 3:09:50; R Sargeant 3:09:51; S Smeeth 3:09:51; R Russell 3:09:51; T Moran 3:09:52; E Preston *3:09:52; T Goodwin 3:09:53*.

Further results appear tomorrow.



Rolling Mall: racers in the wheelchair marathon speed past Buckingham Palace towards the finishing straight. The men's race was won by the Swiss, Heinz Frei. Photograph: Gavin Fogg



Frei clings on to wheelchair title

THE Flora London wheelchair marathon saw the closest finish in the 17-year history of the event, with Heinz Frei, of Switzerland, hanging onto his title by just one second.

Jeannot Joel, of France, competing in London for the first time, applied the pressure from the start and Frei, *the world record-holder*, attempting to win the London crown for the fourth time, was relieved to hold off the fierce challenge.

Approaching the halfway point at Tower Bridge, Frei seemed to get on terms but the lead continued to switch hands regularly and the pair were level when they entered The Mall.

That the title would be decided by a head-to-head sprint for the line had looked inevitable for a long time before. Frei won by the width of a wheel in 1hr 35min 27sec, nine seconds outside the course record he set last year. But, throughout the entire 26 miles 385 yards race, there was never more than a second between them.

Frei, 41, said: "It was a close race but I was confident I would come through in the final stretch. Conditions were more difficult than before. It was colder and there was a headwind at the start."

He was conceding eight years to Joel, the winner of the recent Paris marathon, and admitted: "I have to train a little harder with more quality work."

In contrast, the women's race saw a runaway victory by Monica Wetterstrom, the world record-holder from Sweden.

Despite being unable to train outdoors since the start of the year because of snow and grit on the roads near her home in Atersberga, near Stockholm, Wetterstrom led from the start.

She soon built up a commanding lead to reach The Mall in 1hr 57min 38sec, more than three miles ahead of Tanni Grey, from Great Britain, who won the event last year.

Monica, who has three young children, repeated her 1997 victory. "I was worried because I have been unable to go outdoors to train," she said. "The problem is the grit *on the roads causes lots of* punctures. I have been using a roller on an indoor track. This is the first time this year I have been outdoors in a racing wheelchair."

Grey, 29, who has won the London race four times, said: "It was tough this year. I picked up between three and 13 miles but from Tower Bridge I was suffering. I felt *quite tired*."

The runner-up will be getting married in a fortnight but intends to compete in the wheelchair marathon again next year, when she will be Mrs Tanni Thompson.

Frei and Wetterstrom, the contrasting winners of the men's and women's events, also indicated their determination to rejoin battle with old freinds and foes in 12 months' time.

TOM POLLAK

WHEELCHAIR RESULTS

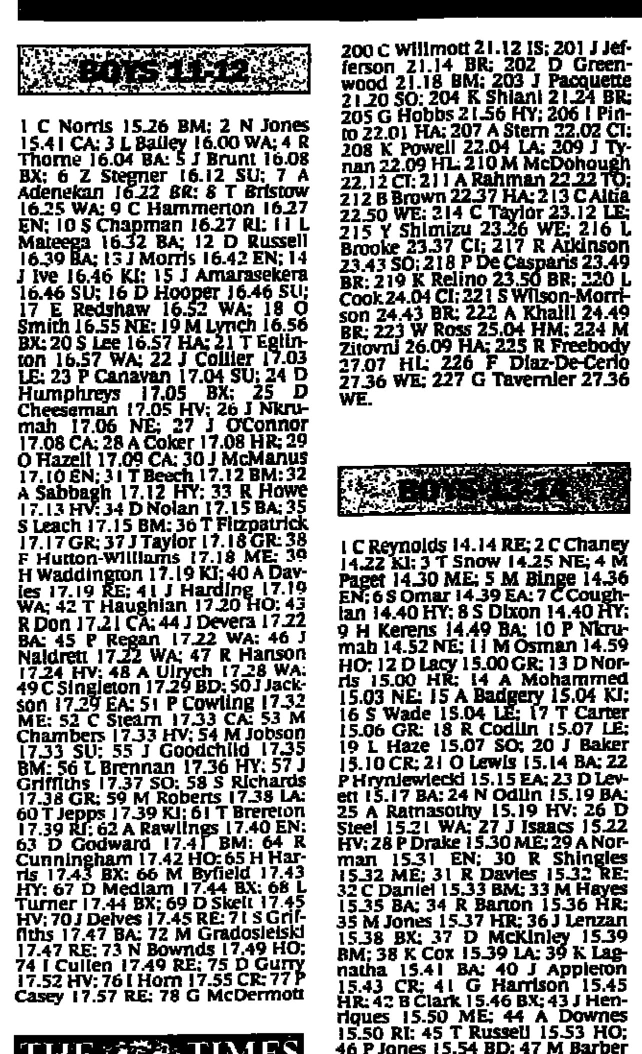
MEN: H Frei (Switz) 1hr 35min 27sec; 2, J Jeannot (Fr) 1:35 28, 3, D Holding (GB) 1:45:28; 4, D Lemeunier (Fr) 1 45 32, 5, K Papworth (GB) 1:48:12; 6, T Patel (GB) 1 48:24; 7, C Modden (GB) 1:50.25, 8, J Heve (Bel) 1 50.26; 9, B Krol (Pol) 1 50.29; 10, J Fulham (GB) 2.00:51.
WOMEN: 1, M Wetterstrom (Swe) 1:57:38, 2, T Grey (GB) 2 11 10; 3, P Dockery (Ire) 2:14.53, 4, K Darke (GB) 2:39:51, 5, M Rice (Ire) 2.47 51, 6, D Brennan (GB) 2.49 16; 7, K Cugley (GB) 3:09 33
OTHER FINISHERS: J Buren 2:02:39; J Vink 2 06 15, J Hanks 2:05.34, B Vigouroux 2:05 38 R Powell 2:06:57, D Young 2:07:50; J Hallam 2:10:43, A Cheek 2:11:07, G Allen 2:24 09, G Shearer 2:27 57; R Wimpress 2:33:20; J Abal 2:43:34, A Holt 2:45:23; M Armstrong 2:46 11, P Downing 2.49:00, M Fox 2:59:56; J Gilbert 3:13 42, G Perry 3 31 18, W Watson 3 59.30, R Cassell 3:59 31, D Alcock 4.19:27; T Claypole 4:26.35, R Schabel 4 41:39

FLORA LONDON MARATHON

LONDON BOROUGH RESULTS FOR THE TIMES MINI MARATHON

BOYS 11-12

BOYS 13-14







Competitors take their first strides at the start of the mini marathon at Southwark Bridge

P Cable 16.42 TO; 126 A Mitchell 16.43 CR; 127 L Wahed 16.43 ME; 128 B Barker 16.45 CI; 129 P Carter 16.46 EN; 130 T Fayyaz 16.47 WA; 131 E England 16.48 WA; 132 A Obedobe 16.55 HA; 133 L McGeoghan 16.57 WA; 134 J Boyle 16.58 CR; 135 N Conway 16.59 CR; 136 J Percival 17.01 HM; 137 M McGreig 17.02 ME; 138 A Bailey 17.04 CA; 139 R Tully 17.05 KE; 140 T Heard 17.09 EN; 141 D Frongia 17.10 KE; 142 J Kelly 17.14 RE; 143 N Wozniak 17.17

KEY TO LONDON BOROUGHS

BD=Barking & Dagenham
BA=Barnet
BX=Bexley
BR=Brent
BM=Bromley
CA=Camden
CI=City of London
CR=Croydon
EA=Ealing
EN=Enfield
GR=Greenwich
HA=Hackney
HM=Hammersmith
HY=Haringey
HR=Harrow
HV=Havering
HL=Hillingdon
HO=Hounslow
IS=Islington
KE=Kensington & Chelsea
KI=Kingston
LA=Lambeth
LE=Lewisham
ME=Merton
NE=Newham
RE=Redbridge
RI=Richmond
SO=Southwark
SU=Sutton
TO=Tower Hamlets
WF=Waltham Forest
WA=Wandsworth
WE=Westminster

GIRLS 11-12

GIRLS 13-14

GIRLS 15-17

INTER-CITY RESULTS FOR THE TIMES MINI MARATHON

BOYS 11-12

BOYS 13-14

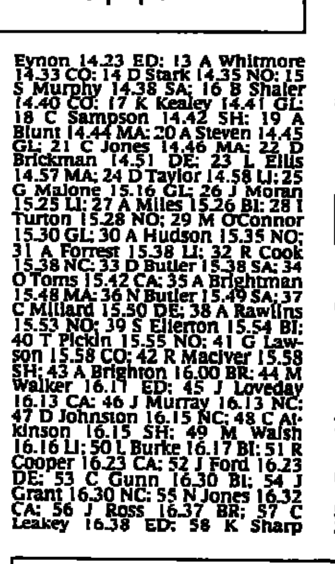
McLaren 15.55 GL; 19 O Bardam 15.57 BR; 20 S Pemberton 15.58 CO; 21 M Jackson 16.00 DE; 22 S Smith 16.05 BI; 23 M Elvins 16.06 BI; 24 M Foody 16.13 NC; 25 D Worgan 16.14 BR; 26 G Thomson 16.15 GL; 27 M Hallas 16.20 NC; 28 K Taylor 16.21 CO; 29 S Richardson 16.28 MA; 30 M Laws 16.29 NC; 31 C Stevens 16.31 LI; 32 E Hopkinson 16.41 DE; 33 E Wattam 16.44 SH; 34 S Phythian 16.46 MA; 35 P Purves 16.51 ED; 36 S Phillips 16.52 BR; 37 P Haggerty 16.54 GL; 38 J Cole 17.02 BI;

KEY TO CITIES

BI=Birmingham
BR=Bristol
CA=Cardiff
CO=Coventry
DE=Derby
ED=Edinburgh
GL=Glasgow
LI=Liverpool
MA=Manchester
NC=Newcastle
NO=Nottingham
NR=Norwich
PO=Portsmouth
SH=Sheffield

TEAM RESULTS

The overall and cities team results will appear in tomorrow's paper





BOYS 15-17

GIRLS 11-12

WHEELCHAIR MINI MARATHON

1 Dwayne Cooke 10.43; 2 Michael Nevitt 11.08; 3 Michelle Lewis 12.09; 4 Brian Alldis 12.26; 5 Hugh Anderson 12.45; 6 Liam Hughes 13.25; 7 Jonathon Desmond 14.18; 8 Ian Myers 14.27; 9 Lee Walker 14.51; 10 Dieter Gerrard 15.45; 11 Sean Kelly 16.18; 12 Danielle Morrison 16.25; 13 Andrew Tongue 17.03; 14 Michael Binchy 25.31; 15 Barry McDonald 26.57; 16 David Walker 44.23; 17 Melanie Ann Gornall 53.21.

GIRLS 13-14

GIRLS 15-17

Study where to go

Choosing a course becomes ever more confusing. **John O'Leary** offers help



RICHARD RAYNER

The rewards of academic application: undergraduates from Durham University on their way to receiving their degrees

Choosing a university place was never easy, but it has become even more confusing in recent years. Not only are more courses available, but prospective students are bombarded by glitzy promotional material and a wealth of advice on where to find the cheapest pint of beer and the coolest nightclubs. The only information that is lacking is how the universities compare academically.

The *Good University Guide*, which will run all this week in *The Times*, is an attempt to fill that gap. Alone among the guides that now pack the bookstores and newsstands, it offers a pointer to the best degree programmes in a growing range of subjects, as well as ranking whole universities.

Over the next four days, the guide will provide information on the top courses in more than 40 subjects and on choosing between Oxford and Cambridge colleges, examine the opportunities for work experience and offer advice on the annual scramble for student accommodation. The series will culminate on Friday with the 1999 edition of the original university league table.

Not surprisingly, the introduction of tuition fees for full-time undergraduates has made prospective students even more discriminating about their choice of course and wary about whether to take a degree at all. Though the collapse in applications predicted by some critics has not materialised, subject choices seem to have been affected.

Mindful of the competition for graduate jobs, applicants are looking for quality and also gravitating towards the more vocational subjects. The pattern established in Australia, which began charging for higher education more than a decade ago, is being repeated in Britain. Computing and some branches of engineering are experiencing a boom as teacher training and some arts subjects struggle.

The latest statistics from the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (Ucas), published on Friday, show a 2.5 per cent drop in the number of applications for higher education courses: almost 20,000 fewer than at the end of March 1998. But the decline is due entirely to the continuing reluctance of mature students to commit themselves to extra expense and, to a lesser extent, the drying-up of previously fertile markets in South-East Asia and the Republic of Ireland.

Applications from British school-leavers show a slight increase, as they did last year. There are only 245 more out of 284,000, but the relief among ministers was palpable, not least because they have planned for 36,000 more students in October. Baroness Blackstone, the Education and Employment Minister, said: "These figures clearly demonstrate the continuing strong demand that exists for higher education and that the reforms we introduced to provide proper funding and allow for the expansion of higher education were right."

Tony Higgins, the chief executive of Ucas, said: "The drop in the number of mature applicants is disappointing, but the Government's recent announcement of initiatives to widen participation among mature applicants and disadvantaged groups should help to tackle this and is to be welcomed."

More than 20,000 of the new places will be for part-timers, who have always paid fees and whose applications have not shown the same decline as those for full-time courses. Universities are also being offered incentives to recruit more students from poor backgrounds, something higher education as a whole has failed to do despite the dramatic expansion of student numbers over the past 20 years.

Most universities will have some extra Government-funded places under the £75 million scheme to widen participation, but some with an overwhelmingly middle-class intake will receive only a handful, while others are allocated several hundred.

Apart from the Open University, Sheffield Hallam will be the biggest winner, but most of its 1,595 additional places will not be at full-time degree level. The largest allocation of full-time degree places will be at Nottingham University, where a new campus opens this year. Almost 1,000 extra places will be funded, easing the pressure slightly on the most sought-after courses in the higher education system. There are 14 applications to each place and entry requirements are among the highest in Britain.

Hull University is next on the provisional allocation agreed by the Higher Education Funding Council for England, with almost 978 new places. The exercise will be repeated for entry in 2000.

The indications are that there will be a place somewhere in the higher education for most of those hoping to start a course this year or next, but competition for the top degrees will be as fierce as ever. Careful preparation and investigation of all the options will be needed to ensure the best possible chance of success with the top courses.

● *For Internet users, the guide will remain available on* The Times *website* (http://www.the-times.co.uk). *An expanded paperback version, with profiles of each university and details of their teaching quality assessment, will be published at the end of the month.*

Students make Leeds the top choice

LEEDS University is the top choice of candidates for this autumn's higher education places, according to the latest figures issued by admissions officers, *John O'Leary writes*. But De Montfort University has registered by far the biggest rise in applications.

The big civic universities, with their wide range of courses, always attract the largest number of applications. But their popularity has dipped this year, with applications down by more than 10 per cent in some cases. Although Leeds had experienced a marginal decline when the statistics were sent to universities last month, the university has replaced Manchester as the most common choice for 1999.

A group of former polytechnics is now closing in on the civic universities. Sheffield Hallam, for example, was one of only eight universities with more than 30,000 applications when the statistics were compiled. It was fewer than 2,000 behind Sheffield University, compared with more than 5,000 on the same date in 1998.

De Montfort University, based in Leicester but with campuses in Bedford, Lincolnshire and Milton Keynes, is another closing in on the traditional leaders. It already has more applications than Liverpool, for example, having registered an increase of almost 20 per cent in a year.

Two of the youngest universities have also recorded big rises, albeit on much smaller bases. Lincolnshire and Humberside, which opened its Lincoln campus only two years ago, has seen a 14 per cent increase in applications this year, and Abertay — the last Scottish university to be established — is not far behind, with 13.5 per cent.

At the other end of the table, two other former polytechnics are struggling. Luton, the last English university to join the ranks, has seen applications fall by almost a quarter. Thames Valley University, which was the subject of a highly critical report by the Quality Assurance Agency, is down by almost a fifth. The University of Wales, Lampeter, has experienced the biggest decline in percentage terms, but the small size of the college can exaggerate the size of such swings.

The table below is very different from last year's, which saw Thames Valley record the biggest increase in applications and Buckingham the biggest decline. Thames Valley subsequently missed its recruitment targets, incurring a fine from the funding council. Only an action plan agreed by the council last Friday has rescued the university from serious financial difficulties.

The applications statistics have always been a jealously guarded secret at this time of year, with universities fearing that poor early figures could deter those still to make a decision. From this month, however, they are to be published regularly by the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service.

UNIVERSITY APPLICATIONS

	1998	1999	%*
De Montfort	23132	27726	19.9
Abertay	3665	4238	15.6
Lincs & Humber	7819	8912	14.0
Loughborough	16633	18343	10.3
Aston	9717	10585	8.93
Southampton	26208	28287	7.93
Essex	6034	6470	7.22
W of England	22324	23935	7.22
Oxford Brookes	16969	17861	5.25
Bangor	7754	8078	4.18
Westminster	19159	19991	4.34
East Anglia	10109	10567	4.53
LSE	11916	12431	4.32
Huddersfield	14150	14758	4.29
Edinburgh	27894	28981	3.89
Robert Gordon	6299	6531	3.68
Cambridge	11623	11813	1.65
Oxford	9560	9668	1.13
Durham	20702	20913	1.02
Teesside	8917	9002	0.95
Coventry	17891	18008	0.65
Anglia	7848	7867	0.24
York	15538	15541	0.02
Royal Holloway	9130	9149	0.21
Bath	15030	15021	-0.05
Exeter	18330	18275	-0.30
Leeds	40145	39929	-0.54
Hertfordshire	15722	15635	-0.55
Sheffld Hallam	30368	30196	-0.57
Central England	14397	14244	-1.07
Swansea	9023	8901	-1.36
Strathclyde	16165	15942	-1.38
Aberystwyth	8296	8180	-1.40
Greenwich	16548	16293	-1.54
City	12764	12564	-1.57
Goldsmiths	7969	7844	-1.57
Lancaster	16574	16308	-1.61
Bristol	35015	34425	-1.69
Sunderland	11653	11420	-2.00
UMIST	11008	10748	-2.37
Cardiff	21072	20561	-2.43
Glasgow	24129	23519	-2.53
Nottingham	37307	36242	-2.86
Imperial Coll	13311	12895	-3.08
QMW, London	13722	13302	-3.08
Reading	18947	18320	-3.31
UCL	24223	23401	-3.40
Leeds Met	25076	24212	-3.45
Sussex	10650	10265	-3.62
Birmingham	32583	31357	-3.76
Guildhall	10976	10569	-3.71
Paisley	6197	5965	-3.75
Hull	13681	13093	-4.30
Brighton	18941	18106	-4.41
Queen's Belfast	19739	18794	-4.79
Ulster	32733	31129	-4.91
Aberdeen	10327	9816	-4.95
Glasgow Cal	16621	15740	-5.31
Wolverhampton	15036	14232	-5.39
Brunel	21846	20647	-5.49
Staffordshire	16906	15960	-5.60
Bradford	11075	10413	-5.98
Dundee	8234	7732	-6.10
South Bank	14162	13299	-6.10
Derby	13595	12778	-6.01
Bournemouth	15701	14554	-7.31
Middlesex	22493	20850	-7.31
SOAS London	2343	2154	-8.07
East London	12873	11795	-8.38
Salford	18330	16812	-8.28
Northumbria	18814	17201	-8.58
Buckingham	745	680	-8.73
Kingston	15878	14499	-8.73
St Andrews	7114	6486	-8.83
Kent	12654	11535	-8.85
North London	16837	15337	-8.91
Sheffield	35350	32168	-9.01
Stirling	9160	8330	-9.07
Newcastle	23853	21671	-9.15
Leicester	17300	15668	-9.44
Keele	8735	7908	-9.47
Manchr Metro	32914	29749	-9.62
Liverpool JMU	25578	22908	-10.4
Liverpool	27469	24579	-10.5
Napier	9295	8294	-10.8
King's Coll	26948	23954	-11.1
Notts Trent	29902	26606	-11.1
Manchester	40600	36327	-11.5
Glamorgan	11060	9758	-11.8
Heriot-Watt	7360	6559	-11.9
Portsmouth	16418	14455	-12.0
Plymouth	19391	17056	-12.1
Surrey	6813	5977	-12.3
Central Lancs	12498	10832	-13.4
Thames Valley	10239	8294	-19.0
Luton	11534	8861	-23.2
Lampeter	1395	1066	-23.6

*percentage change

Nottingham: one of Britain's most popular universities, it will open a new campus this autumn

What to borrow, how to find it

Help is available for the daunting costs of going to college, reports **Suzie Mazure**

Life is about to become yet more expensive for students. Last autumn tuition fees for full-time undergraduates were introduced and this year eligibility for full government loans is to be restricted.

Part of the student loan will be means-tested for the first time, leaving many undergraduates to borrow more expensively from the private sector if they cannot find the money elsewhere. One worried mother, who asked not to be named for fear of embarrassing her student daughter, was shocked to find that the difference would be almost £1,000, which the family could ill afford.

Tuition fees will rise to a maximum of £1,025 for the 1999-2000 academic year, and will go up again the year after in line with inflation. Fee support will be available through your local education authority (LEA) and this will be means-tested in the same way as the old grants were. As soon as you have received an offer of a place at university, even a conditional offer, you should contact your LEA to discover whether you are entitled to any help.

Your university or college will decide when exactly the fees will be payable each year. Most are accepting payment in stages, rather than insisting on the whole amount in advance.

As for anyone else, a student's cost of living will vary immensely depending primarily on location. Financially crippling London is thus acknowledged with a larger student loan, although many other southern cities are also notoriously expensive and do not receive any such weighting.

After the family, student loans remain the main source of financial support. They are intended as a cheap way to borrow money to finance yourself through university so interest on these loans is only linked to inflation. Repayment starts the April after you have finished your course, provided that you are earning above the threshold of £10,000.

The size of each repayment will vary depending on exactly how much you are earning and will be deducted at source along with your income tax and national insurance contributions. Payments may be deferred if your income falls below this level.

Prospective students must apply to their LEA for a loan when they apply for support towards tuition fees. Your LEA will assess the exact amount of the loan to which you are entitled. You must then tell the Student Loans Company this sum and the SLC will pay it to you in three instalments throughout the year, the first one arriving before term starts in September.

All students on eligible courses who are aged under 50, and now those between 50 and 54 who plan to return to work after studying, will be entitled to about three quarters of the maximum loan available. However, eligibility for the remaining quarter of the loan will be means-tested and whether or not you receive this will depend on your income or, for school-leavers, that of your family. Those who are disqualified by the means-test will be restricted to £3,360 for a full year in London and £2,727 elsewhere if they are living away from home. The equivalent for those living at home will be £2,167.

Supplementary grants may be available for some students to top up the loans to the previous level of the maintenance grants. The main beneficiaries will be disabled students, those with dependants, those incurring travel costs in certain circumstances and those leaving care to enter higher education.

Again, your LEA will handle applications for these allowances. All these grants are means-tested, except those for disabled students.

Exact details of who will qualify are available from your LEA, or from the Department for Education and Employment, whose leaflet *Financial Support for Students in 1999-2000* is available by phoning 0800-731 9133.

If you can convince your university or college of your need, you may be entitled to a hardship loan of £250 a year, repayable in the same way as the student loan. Similarly, you may apply to your university or college for a limited amount of help from their access fund.

LOANS FOR 2000

For the academic year 1999-2000, the maximum loan available will be:

For students living away from their parents' home:

	Full yr £	Final yr £
In London	4,480	3,885
Elsewhere	3,635	3,150
Students living with parents	2,875	2,510



ANTHONY UPTON

Claire Lee traded on the Internet to raise her fee for the European Business School

Learning at a price

Costly fees can prove a wise investment, says **Hugh Thompson**

Many students and their families find tuition fees and living costs a burden, but almost 200 British students go to the European Business School, in Central London, where the fees are £8,000 a year. The minimum entry requirement is two A levels and the ability to pay the fees, which does scare off many applicants

The school says that its students, one in five of whom is British, earn £25,000 after graduating from the four-year course, which includes a year's work experience. They can double that within four years of leaving.

Not all have private means or wealthy parents to pick up the tab. Claire Lee, who is in her first year, left her sixth-form college in Hampshire without the necessary grades to secure her place at Edinburgh University. She ended up working in Japan before learning of EBS. Her well-heeled parents balked at the fees after 12 years of paying for independent schooling, so while in Japan Ms Lee started exporting cars to Britain via the Internet. With that and some language teaching, the first year's fees were raised. This summer she returns to Japan to work as a personal assistant for three months.

At the age of 21, Tobias Mews used money left to him by his father to further his career ambitions. He says: "The fact that I will end up computer-literate, with work experience in three countries and with good job prospects means I will quickly make my money back."

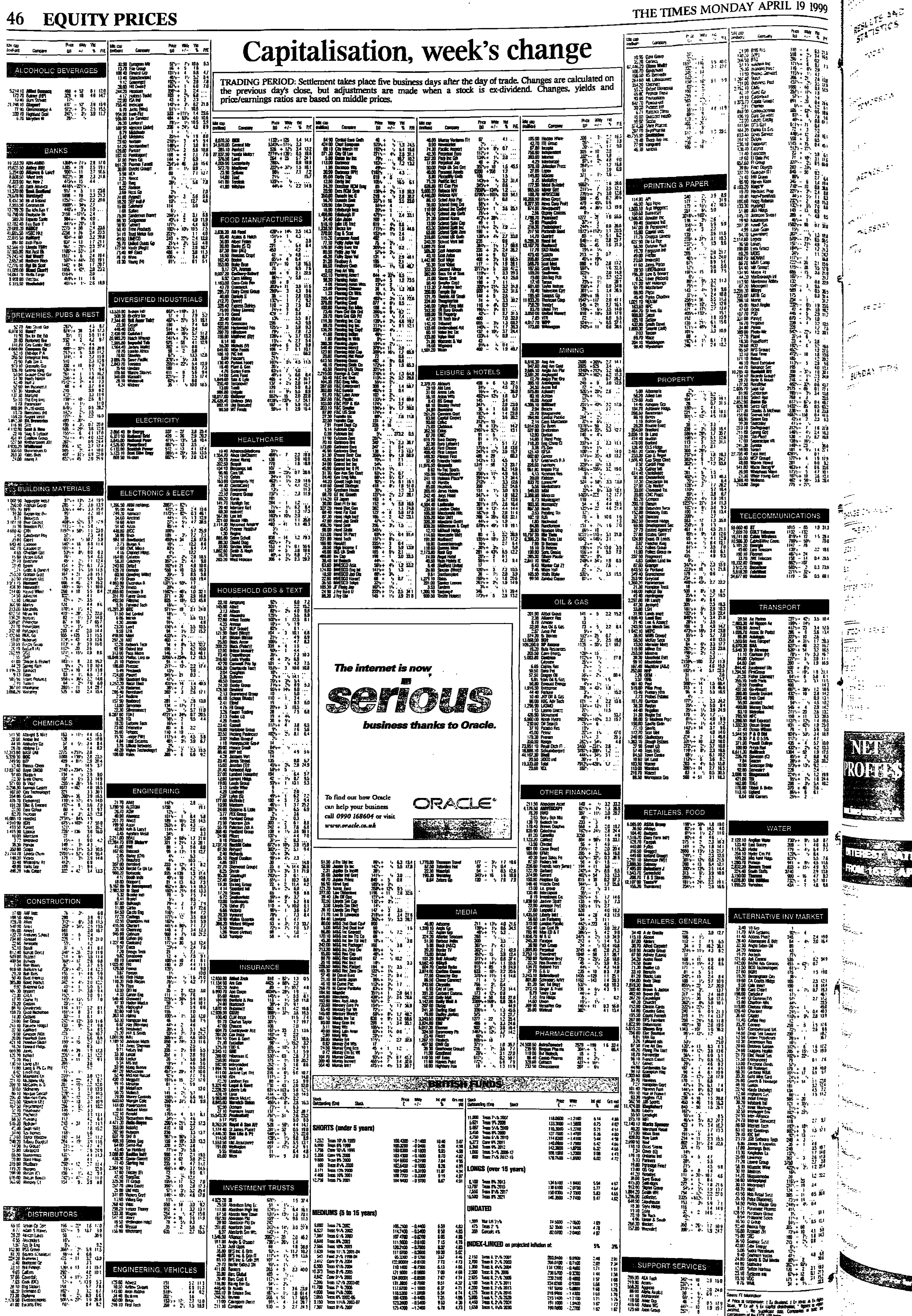
William Sells, an American who has lived in the UK most of his life and went to Harrow, cannot understand what all the fuss about fees is about.

"Whatever British university I went to," he comments, "I would have to pay tuition fees and, compared to the US, they seem reasonable. And this university has a better record than most in turning students into people who make money."

This year EBS is offering one full scholarship and two of half-fees. Trevor Francis, winner of the 1998 full scholarship, went to a comprehensive school in Stevenage, Hertfordshire, and a further education college in Welwyn Garden City, where he got a GNVQ in business studies. Greenwich, North London, Middlesex and Hertfordshire universities offered him places, but he liked the combination of a business degree with Chinese.

TOMORROW IN THE GUIDE

The first of 17 new subject tables, covering the arts and social sciences



Capitalisation, week's change

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

BANKS

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

BUILDING MATERIALS

CHEMICALS

CONSTRUCTION

DISTRIBUTORS

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

ELECTRICITY

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

ENGINEERING

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

HEALTHCARE

HOUSEHOLD GDS & TEXT

INSURANCE

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

LEISURE & HOTELS

MEDIA

MINING

OIL & GAS

OTHER FINANCIAL

PHARMACEUTICALS

PRINTING & PAPER

PROPERTY

RETAILERS, FOOD

RETAILERS, GENERAL

SUPPORT SERVICES

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

TRANSPORT

WATER

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

BRITISH FUNDS

SHORTS (under 5 years)

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

LONGS (over 15 years)

UNDATED

INDEX-LINKED



RESULTS AND STATISTICS

TODAY

Interims: ABF, Bellway. **Finals:** CNC Properties, Densitron Intnl, Ferrans Group, Harvey Nash, Offshore Tool & Energy. **Economic statistics:** none scheduled.

TOMORROW

Interims: Air Partner, Debenhams, McCarthy & Stone, SmithKline Beecham (Q1). **Finals:** Hughes (TJ), St Ives, Versailles Group. **Economic statistics:** GfK April consumer confidence survey, March consumer price indices, March public sector finances.

WEDNESDAY

Interims: DFS Furniture. **Finals:** Bank of Scotland, Lambert Smith & Hampton, Liberty, United Overseas, Warnford Investments. **Economic statistics:** March labour market report.

THURSDAY

Interims: Abbey National (Q1), ICI (Q1). **Finals:** Ted Baker, Folkes Group, Havelock Europa, JJB Sports, Plantation & General, Princedale Group. **Economic statistics:** March retail sales, March provisional M4, M4 lending, BBA March bank lending, BSA March building society lending, March final M0.

FRIDAY

Interims: none listed. **Finals:** Austin Reed, World Telecom. **Economic statistics:** GDP (Q1).

SUNDAY TIPS

The Sunday Times: **Buy** Sytner, Hogg Robinson, Sherwood. *The Sunday Telegraph*: **Buy** PowerGen, Debenhams, Eidos, Bulmer; **Sell** Skillsgroup. *The Observer*: **Buy** John Lusty. *The Mail on Sunday*: **Buy** Saatchi & Saatchi. *Sunday Express*: **Buy** Rosebys, Mowlem, Clydeport; **Hold** Mayflower.

ABF management under microscope

COMPANIES

ASSOCIATED BRITISH FOODS: ABF starts the week's reporting of results with the publication of its interim figures today.

The numbers are likely to be pretty dull. Henderson Crosthwaite, the stockbroker with a strong reputation for its coverage of food companies, expects the group to make £194 millon for the six months to last March. In the comparable previous period, it made £193 million.

However, observers will look keenly for signs of change in the management approach. Garry Weston, chairman and chief executive of the group since 1967 and the man who invented Wagon Wheels, told shareholders last December that Peter Jackson — who currently heads ABF's British Sugar arm — would step up into the chief executive role. In addition, ABF disclosed at the end of March that it was appointing John Bason as finance director. The post had been vacant before his appointment.

However, Mr Jackson does not take up his postion until June, and Mr Bason — formerly with the packaging group Bunzl — does not start until May.

ABF has a long and strong track record. However, its shares have suffered in recent months as doubts circulated about the impact of the strong pound on its profitability.

The group sells many products — including Kingsmill bread, Silver Spoon sugar and Twinings teas — through the supermarkets, and the stores have kept their suppliers in a vice-like price grip.

ABF also has about £1.4 billion of cash. There may be news about plans to use this money on acquisitions — perhaps in the US and on higher added-value ingredients products. However, with interest rates on the downward path over the past six months, the income from this pile of cash is likely to have fallen — a fact that exerts more pressure on ABF's profitability.

It is thought that the dividend will edge up to 4.5p.

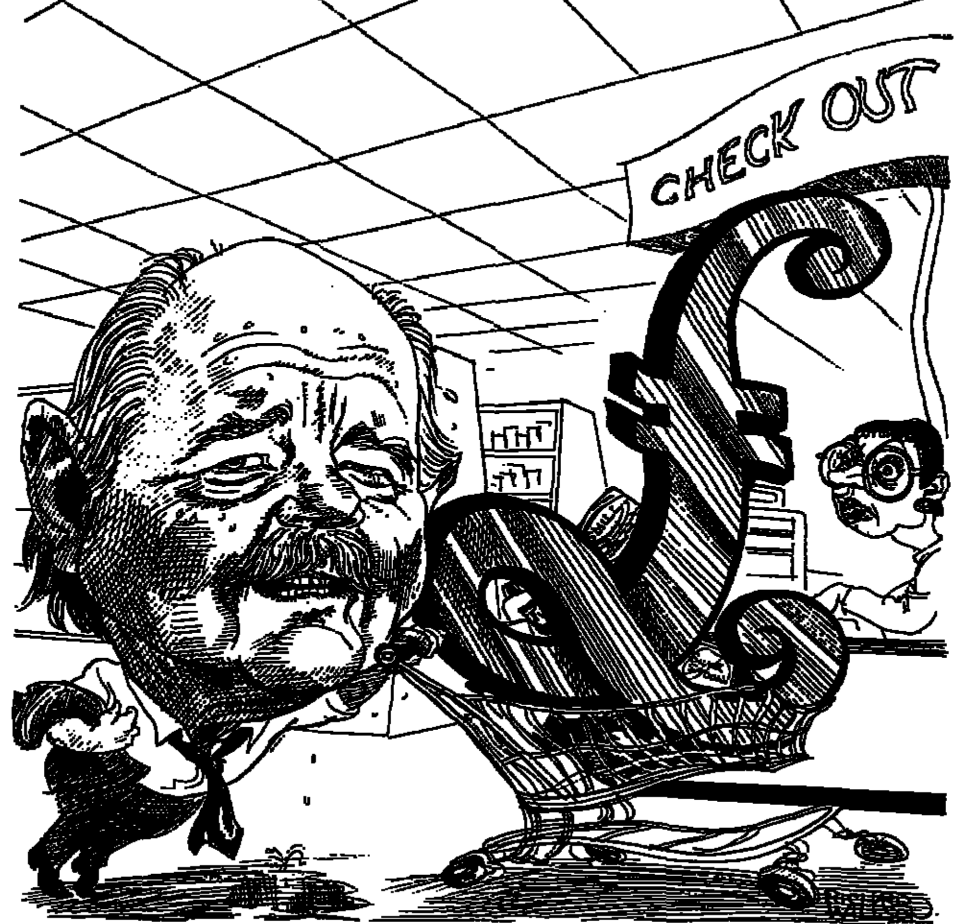
DEBENHAMS: After being crowned Retailer of the Year in the *Retail Week* awards two months ago, Debenhams will have much to live up to when it returns its interim results tomorrow.

Terry Green, who has been chief executive of the department store company since its demerger from Burton Group last year, has already given warning that underlying sales were down 2.5 per cent over the Christmas period, with total sales down 1.4 per cent.

However, City analysts believe that the underlying decline will have steadied to 2 per cent in recent weeks, with total sales up by 1.8 per cent.

The company will have made heavy price cuts to shift unwanted Christmas stock, which is certain to have taken its toll of profit margins.

BT Alex Brown, the broker, expects profits of £77.7 million for the six months to February, against £77.1 million last time. Earnings per share should creep up by 0.1p, to 13.9p, and the interim dividend should be 4.4p (3.9p).



Garry Weston is forecast to wheel in £194 million profits from Associated British Foods today

BANK OF SCOTLAND: The group looks poised to report annual profits of more than £1 billion, up 37 per cent, on Wednesday. The profits will be boosted by a £164 million gain on the sale of the Countrywide Bank of New Zealand. However, underlying profits are still expected to have increased by 13 per cent. The main driver of this is expected to be the 10 per cent increase in net interest income on the back of strong growth. Group costs are forecast to come in at £998 million. Provisions are expected to fall. The dividend is tipped to rise by 15.2 per cent, to 11.4p for the year, with a final payment of 7.4p. The bank is also expected to give more details of its link-up with Pat Robertson, the US preacher, and his Christian television network.

ICI: The chemicals group is likely to strengthen calls for more disposals with the release of its first-quarter results on Thursday. The embattled company, which is trying to convince investors that a heavy restructuring programme is the panacea for its ills, is expected to announce a 56 per cent slump in pre-tax profits, to £38 million, for the three months.

The company is in the throes of switching from commodity chemicals to specialty products. It is sure to use last week's £1.7 billion sale of a string of businesses as evidence that this process is well under way.

However, this deal alone is unlikely to have appeased the market. Huge net debt, slower growth in industrial markets and the Asian malaise still mar ICI's trading outlook.

BT Alex Brown, the broker, says that profits from ICI's core businesses are likely to have risen by 5 per cent in the first quarter, but that the gains will be wiped out by a profit plunge of £40 million in industrial chemicals.

AUSTIN REED: The extent of the tough times on the high street will be evident in Austin Reed's full-year profit result, due to be released on Friday.

The menswear retailer is tipped to report a 29 per cent drop in pre-tax earnings, to £6 million, after adjustments for its acquisition of Country Casuals in January last year.

The company disclosed in January that like-for-like retail sales in the second half were down 12 per cent.

Adjusted earnings per share are forecast to drop from 18.5p to 13.1p, though the net dividend is expected to be steady at 7.5p.

PAUL ARMSTRONG

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Is the UK economy sinking into recession? After 0.1 per cent growth in the last quarter of 1998, markets and ministers will watch the estimate of first quarter gross domestic product on Friday. Median City's forecast is for repeat 0.1 per cent growth but HSBC looks for 0.2 and Paribas sees 0.3 per cent. March retail sales, due on Thursday, are seen rising 0.2 per cent, but optimists see a lot more.

In a busy week for UK statistics, tomorrow's public finance figures are least predictable. A consensus £6.9 million deficit in March UK would leave the annual surplus on the Chancellor's PSNCR measure £5 billion higher than be predicted in the Budget.

March producer prices today and retail inflation tomorrow should show little underlying change. Recovery in oil is expected to push March input prices back up by 1 per cent but make little difference to output price inflation of 0.2 per cent year on year. The RPIX measure of consumer price inflation is likely to be back up to 2.7 per cent but falling mortgage rates could leave headline inflation unchanged at 2.1.

On Wednesday, average earnings growth may retreat again from 4.3 to 4.1 per cent in January while unemployment will likely be up by 6,000-10,000. Watch the April Monetary Policy Committee minutes to see if members split over the rate cut.

GRAHAM SEARJEANT

CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US Dollar
1.6144 (+0.0086)
Euro
0.6632 (–0.0079)
Exchange index
103.5 (+0.9)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share
4021.1 (+78.9)
FTSE 100
6420.6 (–52.2)
New York Dow Jones
10493.89 (+320.05)
Tokyo Nikkei Avge
16851.58 (–4.05)



WORD WATCHING

Answers from page 36

TERRIEN

(c) Earthly, wordly; territorial. Old French for "seignorial", fudged from the Latin *terra* or land or earth. 1489: "Emperours, kynges, dukes & other lordes terriens.

UREDO

(b) A form of blight. Equals *brand*. The Latin *uredo* means blight, blast or itch. 1832:

TURKIN

(b) Light blue; or a light blue kind of cloth. From the Italian *turchinio*, "little Turk", meaning blue, azure or watchet.

TALMA

(a) A cape or cloak worn by men, and also by women in the 19th century. The eponym of François Joseph Talma, French tragedian (1763-1826). 1860: "If a lion's skin could have been substituted for his modern talma."

ANSWER TO WINNING MOVE

1 Bxg6! leaves Black without a decent reply, e.g. 1 ... Nexg6 2 Ne7 or 1 ... fxg6 2 f7

EXCHANGE RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.59	2.42
Austria Sch	21.76	20.10
Belgium Fr	64.05	59.09
Canada $	2.522	2.334
Cyprus Cyp £	0.9165	0.8450
Denmark Kr	11.81	10.92
Egypt	5.71	5.10
Finland Mkk	*9.52*	*8.77*
France Fr	10.37	9.59
Germany Dm	3.115	2.873
Greece Dr	516	477
Hong Kong $	13.33	12.13
Iceland	130	110
Indonesia	17607	12607
Ireland Pt	1.2427	1.1537
Israel Shk	6.86	6.20
Italy Lira	3097	2860
Japan Yen	205.62	188.09
Malta	0.678	0.619
Netherlds Gld	3.515	3.220
New Zealand $	3.10	2.86
Norway Kr	13.12	12.18
Portugal Esc	315.00	292.97
S Africa Rd	10.49	9.53
Spain Pta	*262.53*	*243.74*
Sweden Kr	14.22	13.12
Switzerland Fr	2.571	2.353
Turkey Lira	631927	589924
USA $	1.720	1.577

Rates for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading on Friday.

CORPORATE PROFILE: *Misys*

THE FACTS

Market capitalisation: £3.2 billion.
Annual sales: £432 million.
Pre-tax profits: £88.9 million *(before exceptionals)*.
Employees: 5,500.
Business areas: Misys supplies software for the banking industry — both retail and commercial — on a worldwide basis as well as for the insurance industry in the UK and the medical profession in the US.

THE BOARD

Kevin Lomax, chairman, was one of the founders of Misys in 1979. His background is industrial, being a managing director of a subsidiary of Hanson, and later a director of the Hanson-backed Central Manufacturing and Trading Company. He was non-executive chairman of Misys from 1980 to 1985, and has been executive chairman since then.

Stone Macpherson, deputy chairman, is a former merchant banker at Robert Fleming.

Howard Evans, finance director, joined last year from Courtaulds, where he had also been finance director. He replaced **Ross Graham** who had been finance director since Misys floated in 1987 but is now corporate development director.

Mike O'Leary, who has been with Misys since 1986, runs the insurance and information systems side, while **John Sussens**, a former polytechnic lecturer who later worked with Lomax at Central Manufacturing and Trading Company, is managing director of the rest of the group.

Among the non-executives, Misys boasts a genuine rocket scientist. **George Gray** started his career as a spacecraft design engineer at RCA in Canada. He led the management buyout of RCA's service division which became Serco, a UK-listed company.

Tony Alexander, the senior non-executive, was a colleague of Lomax's at Hanson, rising to become chief operating officer before its demerger.

The third non-executive is **Chuck Farr**, a former McKinsey director who went on to be vice-chairman of American Express before retiring in 1998.

It is easy to dismiss Misys's success as a flash in the pan. The banking, insurance and medical software group has enjoyed a staggering rise in its financial fortunes during the latter part of the 1990s. Its shares rose tenfold in three years, peaking last summer after Misys joined the FTSE 100.

Then the Cassandras attacked, claiming that the company was benefiting overly from work to deal with the launch of the euro and the year 2000 bug, and that valuations in information technology had gone too far anyway. Misys's value dropped and the company was ejected from the FTSE 100. But it recovered to make a return this year.

Although Kevin Lomax, Misys's founder and chairman, claims he does not worry overly about the fluctuations in the company's share price, he is determined to ensure the group becomes a permanent fixture in the index of Britain's leading companies.

Dealing with the second issue first — Mr Lomax points out that British IT companies tend to be less highly rated than equivalent US companies and that Misys is less highly rated that some of its peers, such as Logica or Sema.

The company is considering starting an ADR program in the US. This is less to help Misys's rating, as a quarter of its shares are already owned by US institutions, than to enable it to offer shares for US acquisitions and to US-based staff as part of the company's widespread share incentive schemes.

As for the former worry — Mr Lomax claims that the euro and year 2000 issues affect only the company's banking software side, although this currently contributes 58 per cent of Misys's revenues and 73 per cent of profits.

He admits freely that the euro gave Misys a big one-off boost during 1998. "We went live with 300 banks on January 4," he says. "The euro was a one-off and lifted revenues above normal growth rates. There was a 40 per cent growth during 1998, while we think the more normal growth rate will be 20 per cent per annum."

The year 2000 bug will also bring abnormal growth — although Misys does no work solving year 2000 problems for banks. It is simply that many banks have junked old systems and started afresh as a way of dealing with the bug. This will push growth rates to 30 per cent this year.

However, in spite of this massive increase in spending, Mr Lomax sticks with his 20 per cent growth prediction in Misys's banking business. And this is the reason why.

Mr Lomax argues that most of the IT spending by banks over the past two years has been to repair what they already have. They have not been spending on new technology either to improve service or cut costs. This has, however, allowed new entrants to the market — such as Prudential Corporation or Standard Life in the UK — to attack their market.

The banks' reaction to this is either to invest in new product or to merge with their rivals. Either of these two events tends to help Misys. For example, when UBS and Swiss Bank Corporation merged, the company decided that it had to integrate its private banking systems. The two computer systems the banks used were not compatible, so a whole new system is being built based on Misys software.

The other point Mr Lomax makes is that the experience of the year 2000 bug has made banks realise that having scores of in-house engineers developing proprietary computer systems is simply a waste of time, energy and money, producing half-baked solutions that do not always work. "Banks are fed up with being a beta test site for their own products," Mr Lomax argues. "It is more sensible to buy a product that is already working in 60 or 70 other sites."

Misys covers the whole banking waterfront in Europe, from retail banking to futures trading and risk management. In the US it has a strong presence in the trading and wholesale lending side — particularly after last year's purchase of the CATS risk management software business in California. Misys is looking for a deal to take it in to US retail banking, and hopes to find a company such as CATS, a small, fast-growing business that can benefit from Misys's salesforce and distribution network.

Although banking is the bedrock upon which Misys was built, the company has developed two other business areas — insurance and medical.

The insurance business is almost completely UK based. It started off supplying software for independent financial advisers, and has developed with an automated quotation finder for insurance and assurance products, and more general IFA outsourcing products.

These days about two-thirds of the revenues from the business are from transactions that Misys does for IFAs. Misys is now developing this further with an Internet insurance product called Screentrade. Customers call it up on their PCs, type in their details and it finds the best car or home insurance deal. It is growing at 30 per cent per month and Misys plans to expand it to add banking and investment products.

Mr Lomax is keen not to get overexcited about Screentrade. "It's a classic Internet business," he jokes. "It loses money."

Misys's third leg — the irritatingly named +Medic — is completely different. Purchased in November 1997 for a total of £880 million, it is almost entirely based in the US, supplying patient, prescription and office management systems for doctors' practices. This is potentially a massive market, with more than 600,000 physicians working in the US and healthcare representing 14 per cent of the country's annual spending — a higher proportion than any other leading nation.

Of this, about 30 per cent is paid for by the Federal government, although Medicare and Medicaid and the rest is private sector, with most of that paid by insurance schemes or employers. The insurers and government are trying to control costs, so they want better records of what doctors are spending before they pay the bills. +Medic is one of three leading players supplying the physicians' systems.

These are just the sort of market conditions that appeal to Misys — where the customers need to spend money on software because they are being pressed to control costs elsewhere.

The market is not too sure, and marked Misys shares down sharply earlier this year, after a similar run on one of the big US medical groups, Humana.

Indeed there are many in the market only too willing to search out a bear story on Misys. This is because the company has grown largely by acquisition — indeed the original Misys businesses are no longer part of the group, having been sold off as "non-core" last year.

History indicates that purchasing software companies is not always a successful enterprise. After all, software engineers tend not to be like most other business people, often being motivated by creativity rather than wealth creation. Also there are low barriers to entry in the software market, so companies such as Misys always face the danger of their own employees setting up in competition to them.

However, as Mr Lomax and many of the team come from outside the software industry, they have a different way of doing things.

Misys has a Hanson-style financial reporting bible for all divisional managers to make sure that cash is managed tightly within the group. Rivals say that Misys profit margins are well above what should be expected, but analysts argue that this is because Misys is more professional than most of its rivals.

The Cassandras will continue to worry about Misys, but the group's financial performance speaks for itself.

JASON NISSÉ





Kevin Lomax, chairman, above left, is determined that Misys will become a permanent fixture in the index of Britain's companies. The banking, insurance and medical software group is developing an Internet product, called Screentrade, and is a leading player in America with +Medic

WHAT THE EXPERTS SAY

"Like a lot of really great stocks, Misys has spent its life climbing a wall of scepticism. However, the company does overcome this scepticism because it is so well run. Kevin Lomax runs this company to make money, not to change the world. Misys is the Harvard Business School of the technology sector."

Keith Woolcock, Nomura

"It is a market leader in the retail and investment banking sector. There is a very strong management culture of cash, cash, cash, which is essential for a company which does not have much in the way of asset backing."

Ian Spence, WestLB Panmure

OUR VERDICT

Ethical Expression[1]	3/10
Fat-cat quotient[2]	4/10
Financial record	8/10
Share performance	9/10
Attitude to staff	7/10
Strength of brand	7/10
Innovation	7/10
Annual report	6/10
City star rating	*8/10*
Future prospects	9/10
Total	68/100

Ethical expression is evaluated by [1]Integrity Works. The fat-cat quotient, in which best boardroom pay practice scores highest, is provided by [2]Crisp Consulting.

Ladbroke tests LivingWell abroad

By Dominic Walsh

LIVINGWELL, the health club operator acquired by Ladbroke as part of its recent takeover of Stakis, is to be rolled out across the group's Hilton International hotels in France and Germany — the brand's first move overseas.

Stuart Broster, managing director of LivingWell, is understood to be putting together a strategy for introducing the brand into as many of Ladbroke's hotels in the two countries as possible. It currently has six hotels in France and nine in Germany, at least eight of which already have fitness facilities.

The aim is to test the concept in a controlled way before a decision on whether to develop LivingWell across the Hilton chain worldwide.

After the Stakis acquisition, Hilton has about 225 hotels, of which 92 are in the UK. Of the existing Hilton properties in the UK, 22 already had LivingWell clubs under a previous contract with Stakis. Following last week's acquisition of the Vival chain, there are 78 clubs open or being developed.

A source close to Ladbroke, which is soon to change its name to Hilton Group, said that in countries such as Germany with capacity for several LivingWell clubs, the aim was to set up an infrastructure with a view eventually to seeking standalone sites.

Ladbroke is also believed to have earmarked about ten hotels for disposal after the Stakis acquisition. Seven are understood to be Stakis properties, most of which have been on the market before. They include the 92-room Harewood Hotel in West London.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES 0171-782 7344

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A PROVISIONAL SPECIAL HOURS CERTIFICATE

I, JOANNE ELIZABETH GIVVONS now residing at The New Carlton Ballroom, Great George Street, Rochdale, Lancashire, OL16 1PG HEREBY GIVE NOTICE that I intend to apply to the said Licensing Justices at the Licensing Sessions to be held at the Court House, Colne Road, Reedley, Nr. Burnley on the 13th day of May 1999 at 10.00 o'clock in the forenoon for the grant to me of a Special Hours Certificate under Section 77 of the Licensing Act 1964 for the Club Room/Function Room forming part of the licensed premises known as Proctor's Mill and situate at Hammerton Street, Burnley permitting the sale of alcohol until 2.00am (the following day) every Monday and Saturday in respect of the Club Room and every Thursday, Friday and Saturday in respect of the Function Room AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE that, if such Certificate is granted, Section 76 of the said Act will apply to the said part of Proctor's Mill from the 13th day of May 1999 AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE that, if such Certificate is granted I will surrender the existing provisional Special Hours Certificate in respect of these premises.

A person intending to oppose this application shall give notice in writing of his intention to the Applicant at the above mentioned licensed premises and to the Clerk to the Licensing Justices, Justices' Clerk's Office, Court House, Colne Road, Reedley, Nr Burnley specifying in general terms the grounds of the opposition, not later than seven days before the commencement of the Licensing Sessions at which the application is to be made.

Dated this 29th day of March 1999

Cobbetts, Solicitors, Ship Canal House, King Street, Manchester, M2 4WB, Authorised Agents for the Applicant.

NO: 001529 OF 1999
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE CHANCERY DIVISION COMPANIES COURT IN THE MATTER OF TOKYO-MITSUBISHI INTERNATIONAL PLC AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated 31st March, 1999 confirming the cancellation of the share premium account of the above named Company in the sum of £64,020,000 was registered by the Registrar of Companies on 9th April, 1999.

Dated 19th April, 1999.
Allen & Overy
One New Change
London EC4M 9QQ
Solicitors for the Company
CO:603183.1

LEGAL NOTICES

No.002350 of 1999
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE CHANCERY DIVISION COMPANIES COURT AND IN THE MATTER OF CHARTER EUROPEAN TRUST PLC AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on 31st March 1999 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for the confirmation of the reduction of the share capital of the above-named Company from £22,200,000 to £21,320,000.

AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the Registrar of the Companies Court at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LL on Wednesday the 28th day of April 1999.

ANY Creditor or Shareholder of the Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the confirmation of the said reduction of share capital should appear at the time of the hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose.

A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any such person requiring the same by the undermentioned Solicitors on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

DATED this 19th day of April 1999.
Herbert Smith
Exchange House
Primrose Street
London EC2A 2HS
Ref: 2360/2610/30694019
Solicitors to the Company.

LEGAL NOTICES

ELITE SERVICES LIMITED
Registered Number: 3028450. Nature of Business: Laundry. Trade Classification: 42. Date of appointment of Administrative Receivers: 12th April 1999. Name of person appointing the Administrative Receivers: Auburn Trading Limited. Joint Administrative Receivers: K D Goodman, FCA and K P Barry, FCA (Office Holder Nos: 2407 and 5741) of Leonard Curtis, One Great Cumberland Place, London W1H 8LE.

LEGAL NOTICES

No. 002348 of 1999
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE COMPANIES COURT IN THE MATTER OF THE TOR INVESTMENT TRUST, PLC AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on 31st March 1999 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for the confirmation of the reduction of the share capital of the above-named Company from £2,500,000 to £2,238,000.

AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the Registrar of the Companies Court at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LL on Wednesday the 28th day of April 1999.

ANY Creditor or Shareholder of the Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the confirmation of the said reduction of share capital should appear at the time of the hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose.

A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any such person requiring the same by the undermentioned Solicitors on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

DATED this 19th day of April 1999.
Herbert Smith
Exchange House
Primrose Street
London EC2A 2HS
Ref: 2360/2610/30694019
Solicitors to the Company.

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES

TO PLACE NOTICES FOR THESE SECTIONS PLEASE:

Telephone 0171 680 6878
Fax 0171 782 7930
Or Email
tnl.features@newsint.co.uk

Notices are subject to confirmation and should be received by 2.30pm two days prior to insertion.

NO. 2247/1998
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE CHANCERY DIVISION COMPANIES COURT IN THE MATTER OF DAISYDYNE LIMITED AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on the 30th day of March 1999 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for the confirmation of the reduction of the capital of the above named Company from £500,000 to £150,000 by (inter alia) returning capital in the sum of £80,501.40 which is in excess of the wants of the Company.

AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said Petition is directed to be heard before Mr Registrar Buckley at The Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LL on Wednesday the 28th of April 1999

ANY creditor or shareholder of the said Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the confirmation of the said reduction of capital should appear at the time of hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose.

A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any such person requiring the same by the undermentioned solicitors on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

Dated this 19th day of April 1999
STREATHERS
Sackville House
40 Piccadilly
London W1V 9PA
Solicitors of the above named Company

GLASS & MARBLE LIMITED
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a Meeting of Creditors of the above-named Company will be held at 63 Lincoln's Inn Fields London WC2A 3JX on 11th May 1999 at 12.00 Noon for the purposes mentioned in Sections 100 and 101 of the said Act.

Notice is also hereby given, pursuant to Section 98(2)(A) of the Insolvency Act 1986, that Jamie Taylor FIPA of Messrs. Begbies Traynor (incorporating Taylor Gotham & Fry), The Old Exchange, 234 Southchurch Road, Southend-on-Sea, Essex SS1 2EG is qualified to act as an Insolvency Practitioner in relation to the above company, and will furnish creditors, free of charge, with such information concerning the company's affairs as they may reasonably require.

Resolutions to be taken at the aforementioned meeting may include a resolution specifying the terms on which the Liquidator is to be remunerated. The meeting may also receive information about or be called upon to approve the costs of preparing the Statement of Affairs and convening the meeting.

Dated the 12th April 1999
Ken Fenton
Director

NO: 2441 OF 1999
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE CHANCERY DIVISION COMPANIES COURT IN THE MATTER OF SYNCHRONISED SYSTEMS INSTALLATIONS LIMITED AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on the 7th day of April 1999 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for the reduction of Share Capital of the above-named Company from £1,380,000 to £570,000.

AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the Registrar of the Companies Court at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London on the 28th day of April 1999.

ANY Creditor or Shareholder of the said Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for confirmation of the said reduction of Share Capital should appear at the time of hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose.

A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any such person requiring the same by the undermentioned solicitors on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

Dated: 19 April 1999
Boyes Turner & Burrows
10 Duke Street
Reading
Berkshire RG1 4RX
Solicitors for the Company
Ref: RAB
Tel: 0118 952 7247
Fax: 0118 952 7248

SHAW CARPETS PLC
Nature of Business: Manufacture of carpets and rugs. Administration Order Made: 12 April 1999. Joint Administrators: P S Dunn & S R Thomas, Horwath Clark Whitehill & Co, Sherlock House, 7 Kenrick Place, London W1H 3FF.

NO: 400 OF 1998
INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
IN THE CROYDON COUNTY COURT
CRAIG BRAGANZA IN BANKRUPTCY

I, C M T Haig, Insolvency Practitioner of Baker Tilly, Chartered Accountants, 2 Newman Road, Bromley, BR1 1RJ hereby give notice that I have been duly appointed as trustee of the estate of the above bankrupt.

All persons having in their possession any of the effects of the bankruptcy, must deliver them to me and all debts to the bankrupt must be paid to me.

Creditors who have not yet proved their debts must forward their Proof of Debt to me.

C M T HAIG
TRUSTEE
DATED THIS 13th DAY OF APRIL 1999

Scottish unions win concessions in PFI debate

By Christine Buckley, Industrial Correspondent

LABOUR has offered concessions on the way that the *Private Finance Initiative* operates in Scotland to avert a clash with the trade unions in the run-up to the Scottish parliament elections.

The Scottish Trades Union Congress, which begins its annual conference in Glasgow today, yesterday watered down its stance on government policy to bring private money into public services after Gordon Brown promised safeguards on the pay and working conditions of health service employees. The deal could involve allowing unions a role in evaluating bidders seeking to build new hospitals.

The Government is anxious to avoid a rift with the traditionally militant STUC for fear of fuelling support among union members for the Scottish Nationalist Party.

Today Donald Dewar, the Scottish Secretary, will warn the STUC of the economic dangers of endorsing full independence. He has brought forward his appearance from Thursday when he was originally scheduled to speak. Alex Salmond, the SNP leader, will address a fringe meeting today.

Labour has spent months lobbying union leaders on the dangers for its electoral campaign in Scotland if the STUC conference becomes a platform for the Government's critics.

The PFI — or public/private partnership as Labour now prefers to call it — has long been a controversial issue with unions who complain that job security and conditions are less favourable in private employment than in the public sector. They also believe that while the PFI may be a cheap way to fund public building in the short term, it is an expensive one in the long term because the Government faces continued bills from private operators.

Bill Spiers, General Secretary of the STUC, said that while the Scottish union movement was opposed in principle to the PFI, it recognised that there may be a way forward with new frameworks guaranteeing working conditions.

"We have to work as constructively as we can within the realities we are faced with," he said. Anne Middleton, STUC President, said it would be wrong to burden a new Scottish parliament with a huge bill for public building.

Labour, however, still faces heavy criticism from union members when the issue is debated on Wednesday. One amendment to a motion opposing the PFI calls for a moratorium on all new projects.

Surveyor issues reform warning

By Gavin Lumsden

PROPERTY surveyors could be swamped by a wave of litigation as a result of the Government's attempts to speed up the homebuying process, according to a leading reinsurer.

Under government proposals, set to become law next year, homeowners will have to prepare a "buyer's pack" containing a survey and other details of a property before putting it up for sale. This is expected to cost them between £300 and £500.

Although the reform will create a huge business opportunity for surveyors, it will also open them up to legal action from buyers, sellers and mortgage lenders if things go wrong, according to CNA Re, a reinsurer which provides professional indemnity insurance.

The company fears a new conveyancing boom could herald a repeat of the late 1980s and early 1990s when insurers ended up paying about £100 million over disputed property valuations. Surveyors' indemnity insurance costs subsequently doubled.

William Green, a vice-president at CNA Re, said surveyors involved in large residential developments were most at risk. They could face claims from buyers if unreported defects later came to light. Sellers could also launch legal claims against surveyors if they thought an overly critical report had blighted the prospects of a sale.

COLIN BEERE

THEY'RE OFF: Sporting Index, the spread betting firm, will today enter the financial spread betting market, pitting it against IG Index and City Index (Dominic Walsh writes).

Financial Spreads, a new company based in the Square Mile, will offer betting on a host of financial markets, including the FTSE 100 and Wall Street as well as interest rate futures, government bonds, currencies and commodities.

Compton Hellyer, centre, and Lindsay McNeile, right, who founded Sporting Index seven years ago, have poached six of their eight dealers from IG and City Index.

Mr Hellyer, however, insisted he was not trying to damage his competitors. "We hope to expand the cake," he said. "We're not trying to steal their business, but rather to expand the market and freshen it up." He added: "Activity in financial spread betting has risen by at least 60 per cent in the past 12 months."

The launch of Financial Spreads is aimed at boosting the Sporting Index group's profitability with a view to seeking a flotation or trade sale within five years.

Fear for small firms in pension reform

THE Confederation of British Industry has warned the Government that its plans for stakeholder pensions will place an unreasonable burden on smaller companies (Gavin Lumsden writes).

Stakeholder plans are expected to arrive in 2001. They will be designed to be cheap and flexible in order to encourage an extra eight million people to save for their retirement. Companies that do not run pension schemes for their staff will be obliged to choose a stakeholder plan into which employees can pay. Contributions will be deducted direct from pay by the employer.

The CBI believes that the government proposals will effectively force smaller employers to act as financial advisers to staff although they lack the skills or experience. The organisation says that people should choose their own stakeholder. It wants the Government to set up a clearing house to which employers could direct payment from employees.

The CBI also opposes plans to require all company pension schemes to have trustees. This would raise costs, it says.

David Lloyd Leisure steps up expansion

THE pace of the development programme at David Lloyd Leisure, Whitbread's health and fitness club division, has been stepped up with the acquisition of the Crest Sports & Leisure Club at Kidbrooke, southeast London, from the receivers (Dominic Walsh writes).

The group has paid an estimated £1.7 million for the club and is planning to spend about £8 million converting it into a fully fledged David Lloyd centre with indoor and outdoor swimming pools and several outdoor tennis courts.

The club was repossessed by Dunbar Bank four years ago after the previous owners ran into financial difficulties. Since then it has been run by BDO Stoy Hayward, which put it up for sale last year through FPD Savills, the property agent.

Since Whitbread acquired David Lloyd Leisure in 1995, for £200 million, the business has been expanded from 13 clubs to 28. In the past year Whitbread has spent about £75 million opening eight new clubs and has a further eight openings in the pipeline over the coming 12 months.

Laura Ashley seeks US exit

By Sarah Cunningham

LAURA ASHLEY, the struggling retailer, is attempting to sell its US business, the worst-performing part of the company, in order to appease its bankers.

The company has delayed publication of its full-year figures from last week in order to continue talks with its banks. Its £50 million borrowing agreement is due to expire at the end of this month.

Laura Ashley is believed to have approached a number of potential buyers of the US business, which is thought to be losing as much as £1 million per month.

The Rev Pat Robertson, the American television evangelist and businessman, has recently joined the board of Laura Ashley, which is now dominated by managers from MUI, the Malaysian conglomerate that bailed it out last year.

Laura Ashley's annual results have to be released by the end of April, and the company hopes to be able to announce the sale of its US business at the same time. It has already sold some US stores, and has been left with 130 others.

Ann Iverson, a previous chief executive of Laura Ashley, had a policy of opening large stores in US shopping malls, but they have performed particularly poorly.



ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT MARKET

1999 High	Low	Mkt Cap (million)	Company	Price pence	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
1½	0¾	2.40	10 Grp	1	...	..	...
116½	89½	11.70	AFA Systems	92½	−4	...	..
96¼	91½	12.10	AMCO Corp	94	...	7.8	..
107½	93½	6.17	ATA Group	95	..	6.1	7.7
250	175	41.40	Access Plus	245		2.4	19.0
47½	42½	5.61	Adtar Group	42½	−2	.	7.3
4	2	2.39	Aincan Gold	2¼	.	...	..
84	62	28.48	Albemarle & Bd	64	−4½	2.0	16.4
34	24	10.70	Alizyme	30	−2	...	...
65½	42½	14.20	Ambient Media	59½		...	...
130½	97½	6.14	Ambishus Pub Co	97½	−7½	.	12.6
97	86½	32.30	Anglo Sibn Oil	89	..	...	..
108¼	88½	2.74	Anglo-Welsh	88½	−3	4.2	.
72½	41½	34.20	Antonov	43	...	...	...
87¼	62½	15.70	Aortech	77¼	..	...	.
120	85	6.24	Aran Resources	120	+30	3.5	45.4
65	65	6.63	Archer Dedicated	65	..	...	...
5½	3¼	3.46	Arucan (UK)	5	+1¼	...	.
547½	350	121.40	Ask Central	525	.	0.2	34.9
57½	52½	1.03	Athelney Trust	57½	.	2.0	.
8½	4½	10.10	Atlantic Caspian	5¾	−¼	..	..
6	6	3.56	Avalon Oil	6		..	...
485	175½	142.00	BATM Adv Comms	455	+62½	0.7	.
91½	53½	11.50	BCO Technologies	61½	−2	.	..
182½	130	27.60	BGR	175	.	1.3	19.0
1¼	1	0.92	Bakery Services	1¼	..	.	...
2¾	1½	4.25	Beechcroft	2¾	.	3.0	..
3¼	2½	5.33	Beaufort	2¾	..	2.5	54.7
36½	34½	5.36	Bickerton	35	...	1.4	33.2
55	48	0.78	Billam	49	..	10.8	...
38½	18½	1.91	Bilston Battsea	21½	...	4.9	8.9
1¼	1	7.08	Birchin Intl	1¼	..	..	15.4
43½	32½	19.20	Birmingham City	38½	.	..	
11½	3	1.78	Blakes Cloth	3¼		30.8	6.1
30½	30½	1.46	Bogod 'A'	30½		3.6	..
96½	84½	12.60	Bond Intl Soft	92½	−3	...	22.5
316	305	2.13	Bowness Leis	305	..	2.5	13.2
13½	10¼	5.41	Brancote Hldgs	13	.	...	.
65	60	2.52	Br Bloodstock	60	..	4.2	7.3
10½	4½	0.67	Buckland Invs	5½		..	..
8	4	0.03	Buckland Inv Wts	4	.	..	..
165	122	19.60	CA Coutts Hldgs	165		2.5	12.1
100	80	5.92	C & B Publishing	80	−2	..	6.5
8½	7½	12.40	CCM Distribution	7½	..	.	12.9
72½	72½	3.19	CW Residential	72½	.	2.6	36.5
225	165	9.50	Cafe Inns	190	.	1.8	14.4
45	45	5.54	Caledonian Tst	45	..	..	5.6
10½	5¼	3.02	Cambridge Min Res	10½	+4½	...	
2½	2	3.38	Cambury Inv	2¼	.	..	35.9
1	0½	0.45	Cambury Inv Wts	0½	−¼	.	..
43	29	57.80	Card Clear	41	+7½	0.7	19.3
39½	35½	3.69	Carisbrooke Ship	36½	.	2.7	11.8
23	16¼	198.60	Carlisle	17½		..	46.1
34	32	1.87	Cassidy Bros	34	..	8.8	.
6½	3½	3.07	Celebrated Group	5	..	...	.
99½	93½	21.40	CI Comms(TV)	97½	.	2.7	17.3
49¼	40	15.80	Chorlton Athl	44½	.		22.5
16½	10¼	15.20	Charterhouse Cmc	15¼	−½	2.6	12.8
88½	69½	119.90	Chelsea Village	75½	+1	.	49.0
25	20¼	125.40	Chorion	24½	−¼	0.4	40.3
111½	95½	36.60	Citadel	110½	+9½	2.8	13.9
39½	26	6.79	City Gourmets	32½	..	...	.
110	90	0.99	Clan Homes	110	..	..	...
14	8¾	11.40	Coffee Rep	12	...	...	..
277½	194	33.20	Comino	250	−5	1.5	17.6
212½	70	6.67	Computerland UK	72½	.	2.6	8.8
15½	11½	9.52	Concurrent Tech	13½	...	.	...
33	28	7.09	Conister Tst	31½	.	4.4	11.8
159½	149½	15.50	Connaught	159½	+10	3.3	12.7
1½	1	1.95	Corporate Exec	1¼	+¼	.	..
4¼	1	0.43	Creos Intl	1		.	..
113½	113½	5.79	Cresco Intl	113½		..	30.9
105	77½	1.34	Crown Eye	84	−9½	14.9	.
170	82½	4.63	Dawn Til Dusk	96½		4.4	7.3
2¾	2¼	1.56	Deanes	2¼	...	..	..
260	230	14.50	Deep Sea Leisure	230	.	..	18.2
5¼	4¼	7.39	Denmaster	5	.	2.3	11.7
56½	15½	13.50	Desire Petroleum	28½	+1	..	36.7
54½	52½	7.86	Digital Anmin	53½	...	...	...
20½	16½	10.30	Dimension Res	16½		...	...
16½	12½	0.11	Dimension Wrts	13	..	...	
19½	16	2.59	Dinkie Heel	17½	+1	7.1	9.2
89½	80½	7.53	Delyn Group	86½	.	2.9	14.5
32½	28½	5.50	Dmatek	29¼	..	.	14.9
320	225	20.88	Dobbies Garden	312½	−6	1.6	17.2
22½	19½	2.72	Downtex	22½		5.6	10.1
205	166½	24.60	Dragons Health	205	+15½	1.5	19.0
2	2	1.71	Drings of Bath	2	...	..	12.9
1580	395	47.40	Durlacher	1580	+205	...	47.9
38	37½	3.67	Eagle	37½	...	...	...
165	75	21.70	Elec Retail Sys	102½	+22½		...
80	69	21.50	Enterprises	79	..	6.1	7.6
27½	17	5.36	Epic Group	23	+½	...	23.6
40½	25	3.30	Eurasia Mining	25	−2½	...	...
3¼	2½	4.92	Fairplace Cons	3¼	.	3.6	8.5
422	325	10.90	Farlake	420	...	1.0	17.8
64½	54	11.70	Fayrewood	55½	+½	2.4	9.7
86½	81½	4.08	Fieldens	81½	...	..	...
62½	57½	13.00	Firestone Dmds	57½	...		...
225	155	5.46	Flomerics	210	..	1.6	20.9
82½	62½	7.00	Formscan	62½	.	4.8	7.9
129½	115½	11.00	Fountain Forestry	115½	...	10.6	16.2
200	167½	13.20	Fulong Homes	200	+11¾	3.8	6.1
52½	24½	5.44	Future Int Telep	46½	+6	...	...
179½	133½	15.80	GB Railways	179	+8	3.6	10.0
60	50	6.60	GR Hldgs	50	...	2.8	14.5
10¾	7¼	14.90	GTL Res	9¼	..	...	.
113½	82½	88.30	Gartland W&B	101½	+17	5.5	5.7
26½	21	33.30	Gold Mns Sard	24¼	+¼	..	...
29½	17½	8.61	Golden Prospect	17½	−2	...	65.7
26	17½	12.10	Golf Club	25½	+3	..	...
157½	111½	26.60	Gooch & Housego	157½	+14	1.1	22.0
18½	10½	3.07	Griffin Mining	14½	..	..	...
2¼	2	2.25	Grosmont Hldgs	2¼	...	.	23.5
0½	0½	0.60	Grosmont Hldgs Wts	0½	...	...	...
8¾	7¾	1.93	Grosvenor Ltd	8	..	..	25.5
182	163	48.10	Guiton	181		3.2	12.4
7¼	3½	2.78	Hansom	7¼	+½	...	35.1
185	133	22.50	Hardy Undwig	134	...	4.5	7.2
2	1¼	11.80	Hartford	1½	..	..	...
30	28	7.61	Hacas Group	29½	..	:	19.1
78½	67½	3.53	Hat Pin	78½	+11	..	74.5
385	360	7.56	Heavitree	360	...	2.4	17.4
295	290	12.20	Heavitree A	290	..	2.9	14.0
145	62½	8.55	Helicon Pubg	145	...	...	...
85	52½	12.60	Highams Sys	65½	−1	1.5	11.2
94½	87½	8.32	Highland Timber	94½	...	...	...
80½	65½	17.50	Honeycombe Leisure	77½	..	..	12.9
125	100	2.00	Hurlingham	125	+22½	0.8	.
58½	52½	3.52	Hydro-Dynamic	52½	...	7.4	17.6
30	17	4.68	IES	20	+½	...	...
305	205	12.40	I S Solutions	257½	+5	1.6	..
737½	512½	153.30	Indpt Energy	585	−20	...	.
66½	51½	11.20	Indpt Radio	62½	−1	..	...
123½	44	30.20	Infobank Intl	121	+35½	..	..
44½	17½	5.27	Inner Workings	21½	+2	.	
40½	29	0.75	Integrd As Mgt	29	−1½	..	...
107½	39	32.50	Intelligent Env	102½	+27½	..	...
487½	402½	24.30	Inter-Alliance	442½	..	.	
130	108	24.70	Interior Servicest	118	...	2.7	9.7
115½	107½	5.38	Inter Link Foods	114½	...	1.7	9.7
193½	93½	86.60	Internet Tech	192½	+18½	.	.
627½	562½	83.10	Intl Greetings	602½	+5	1.5	17.1
92½	32½	28.80	IOC Intl	92½	+13	..	...
425	315	18.90	ITG Group	378	+10½	...	42.7
262½	205	23.70	JSB Software Tech	249	+3	...	...
65½	22½	6.96	James R Knowles	35	+1	4.6	..
51	32½	4.49	Jardinerie Ints	51	+6	...	13.8
280	222½	17.80	Jennings Bros	240	..	3.5	10.7
2	1½	2.46	J Lewis Hlord	1¾	.	6.2	12.9
42½	32½	10.70	Jordec	34	.	..	6.8
24	18½	4.73	Jumbo Intl	24	...	...	41.0
2¼	1¼	9.05	Just Group	2	+¼	...	.
32½	30½	3.51	Kern River	30½	...	...	..
18½	11½	4.46	Keystone Solt	15½	+½	..	...
9	3		Keystone Wrts	7	...	..	...
141½	136½	13.30	Kingfisher Ls	137½	...	1.7	14.0
55	38	30.80	LTG Technologies	38	...	..	7.5
180	95	6.02	Lady in Leisure	102	−3	2.0	8.8
220	178	8.55	Landround	190	+5	2.6	15.7
378	357	25.00	Lawrence	357	−3	2.6	11.8
4450	3750	71.20	Laurie Group	3750	...	2.7	3.8
22½	14½	1.60	Lepco	15	−1	...	..
380	303	74.50	Linton Park	378	−1	6.2	4.4
305	305	6.10	Loades	305	...	0.4	...
20	10½	6.30	Loftus Road	10½	...	...	...
13¼	8¼	4.54	Lond & Edin Pub	13¼	+¾	.	14.3
75	75	3.98	London Town	75	+1¼	3.1	10.1
45	45	0.45	London Town Wts	45	...	.	...
146½	138½	4.83	Longbridge Intl	146½	+7	3.8	...
53½	21½	1.21	Longmead	33½	...	7.5	16.3
1	0¾	1.75	Lotteryking	1	..	...	12.2
0½	0½	0.09	Lotteryking Wts	0½	...	..	...
0¾	0¾	13.60	MV Sports	0¾	...	..	...
8½	6¼	6.63	Magnum Power	7	+¾	...	...
422½	267½	58.30	Majestic Wine	422½	+2½	1.2	25.4
14½	9	10.20	Mano River UK	14½		..	...
5¾	4½	3.75	Maax & O'seas	4¾	.	...	.
35½	32½	4.81	Market Link Pb	32½	.	2.8	10.2
75	65	1.55	Matrix Hlthcare	67½		4.4	..
14¾	10¼	6.24	Mears Group	13¼	−¾	3.0	..
4	2¼	16.00	Media Content	2¾		...	..
23½	16¾	30.10	Medisys	16¾	..	...	..
20½	19½	14.70	Megalomedia	20		1.2	22.2
13½	11½	0.14	Megalomedia Wts	12½	..	..	.
46½	30½	6.06	Meliverts	41½	−2	...	..
109½	100½	13.00	Melnor Group	102½		...	17.5
88½	80	4.33	Metrodome	85		...	...
117½	66½	56.60	Minorplanet	116½	+23	..	...
106½	50½	10.50	Mondas	83½	+15	.	..
287½	230	30.10	Moorepay	257½	−19	2.4	...
73½	50	5.59	Moneycashel	73½	+12	..	6.0
49½	25	6.93	Mulberry Group	33	−1½	4.5	.
3	2¾	2.07	MultiMedia	3	..	...	...
8¾	7¼	8.25	Murray Financial Corpn	8¼	.	..	..
110½	107½	5.39	NBA Quantum	110	...	..	11.2
9	8	0.59	NECA	8	...	2.5	
140	50½	48.70	NMT	124	−1	..	..
205	87½	14.20	NRP	190	+33	...	46.2
410	165	43.50	Nsb Retail Sys	395	−11	0.5	35.0
155	127	10.30	NWF Grp	131	+2½	6.4	6.6
145	140	10.20	Nash (Wm)	145	..	5.5	5.6
5¼	3½	3.94	Nat Bldg Mats	4	...	...	11.0
105	105	2.10	Nat Bldg Prt	105	..	...	
90	40½	14.20	Netcall	71	−4	...	
80	80	1.52	Nothomes	80	.	...	24.8
6	1¼	1.66	Nilon Petrm	5½	+4¼		.
60½	45½	2.87	Northstar Sec	45½	..		24.7
37½	17½	0.35	Northstar Sec Wts#	17½	...	...	..
27½	27½	13.80	Offshore Tool & Energy	27½	..	...	..
62½	54½	11.20	Old Monk Company	61½	−1	..	16.8
285	12½	5.86	On Line	146½	−1	.	...
85	75	6.53	Optoplast	75	...	2.0	12.6
27	9¾	29.50	Oxford Biomedica	20¾	−¼	.	.
0¾	0¼	5.79	Pacific Media	0¼	..	.	..
11	5	2.48	Pan Andean Res	5¼	−1	...	...
19½	15¾	2.10	Parallel Pcts	16½	−1	.	..
220	215	5.16	Park Ests(Liv)	215	.	4.8	14.6
13½	7½	8.79	Pathfinder Props	12½	+1	3.3	..
171½	148½	11.10	Peel Hotels	171½	+6½	0.6	...
9¼	7	3.44	Pembertons	7	−¼	...	.
131½	123½	8.35	Pennant Intl	126½	..	2.8	.
47½	39½	11.30	Personal No Co	42½	...	..	...
83½	58½	25.10	Petra Diamonds	73½	+14	..	..
58½	40	0.88	Petra Dmnds Wt	52½	+12½	...	..
12	9	7.97	Philippine Gd	9½	−1	.	23.3
67½	10½	14.20	Pilat Tech	60	+49½	..	...
259½	187½	34.50	Policy Master Grp	244½	+4½	0.4	..
162	138	33.10	PolyDoc	160	+3½	...	...
58½	38½	8.71	Polymasc Pharms	41½	.	...	..
0½	0½	1.09	Pordum Foods	0½	.	...	...
0¾	0¾	0.16	Pordum Fds Wts	0¾	...	..	..
19½	13	17.10	Premier Asset Mgt	19½	+4½	...	14.9
189½	160½	6.75	Premier Direct Grp	182½	...	..	5.9
4	2¾	128.50	Prestbury Group	3¾	.	..	51.1
345	330	6.93	Preston Nth E	330	−15	.	...
84½	67½	5.24	Private & Comm	84½	..	0.7	13.8
260	250	8.75	Property & Cap	250	..	..	
18	6¼	8.94	Proteome Scies	11½	+1	.	...
57½	35	2.04	Pubs n Bars	55	+5		..
82½	47½	11.70	Pycraft & Arnold	75	+2½	2.3	13.1
96½	65½	16.50	Q Group	94½	−½	0.5	15.1
305	214½	92.40	Ramco Egy	305	+60	.	.
9	6½	11.50	Range Cooker	7¼	+½	2.4	6.9
119½	62	10.80	Raphael ZH	72½	+10	4.1	5.8
17½	13½	2.19	Recycling Servs	13½	.	..	12.3
5½	1½	5.14	Reflec	1¾	...		...
2½	1¼	1.36	Revelation Plc	1¼	..	24.0	.
6	5	3.29	Riceman Insce	5	.	...	.
76½	63½	3.37	Romtec	63½	−5	2.5	.
217½	177½	15.80	SBS	180	−7½	1.8	14.5
87½	38	8.06	SCi Ent	63½	−5	..	...
55½	34½	8.96	Salestore	40	.	...	.
128½	125½	6.78	Savoy Asset Mgt	125½	..	3.4	13.7
215	156½	36.50	Science Sys	215	+2¾	0.8	.
16	11½	4.54	Scotswood Inds	14	−1	.	..
1¼	0¾	1.97	Screen	0¾	..	..	..
2¾	2½	0.49	Selector	2½		...	...
161½	108½	8.79	Shalibane	108½	..	4.3	..
57½	45½	2.41	Shelton (M)	45½	..	9.3	6.0
8¾	3¾	42.00	Sibir Energy	6¼	−½		..
3¾	2¼	5.22	Sira Bus Serv	2¼	.	3.2	8.0
12½	10½	5.06	Sodra Petroleum	12½	...	..	...
49½	45½	2.87	Solid State Sp	45½	.	1.1	28.7
250	230	10.60	Solitaire	230	.	2.6	21.0
81½	34½	6.72	Soundtracs	66½	−5	0.8	39.7
1	0¾	1.47	South Beach Concepts	0¾	..	..	..
59½	45½	9.40	Southern Vectis	47½		4.8	6.8
86½	62½	24.80	Sports & Out Media	80½	−2	..	30.6
186	55½	15.80	Sports Internet	179½	+45½		.
155	147½	8.50	Springboard Venture Managers	154½		.	
370	137½	44.80	Statware	352½	+92½	.	
196	103	28.90	Stanford Rook	145	−10		..
35½	11	3.04	Stentor	26	−½	.	.
6	3		Stentor Warrants	5	..	..	..
87½	75	4.12	SupaRule	75	.	..	..
135	120	12.00	Sutton Harbour	120	−2	3.1	18.0
43	7	2.95	Syst Integ Rsch	22			.
74½	47½	23.10	Systems Intl	67½	+12	0.1	21.5
3½	3¼	5.73	Talisman House	3½	...	.	8.8
2	1	0.04	Talisman House Warrants	1	...	.	
37½	22½	3.97	Theo Fennell	24½	.	..	26.4
4¾	4½	9.00	Thomas Potts	4½	..	0.4	10.6
19½	11½	1.60	Tom Hoskins	15½	...	.	10.1
57½	27½	5.23	Total Office	32½	..	5.5	...
147½	36½	14.10	Touchstone Grp	143½	−1	0.2	20.8
66½	15½	18.10	Tradepoint Fcl	62½	..	.	..
55½	47½	7.68	Tricorder Tech	50½	−4	..	
145	135	6.72	Trinity Care	140		3.9	12.7
100	100		Troven VCT	100	..	..	.
175	145	6.04	UA Group	172½	+10	2.7	
39½	32½	2.96	Univers	32½		.	28.8
185	122	19.10	VDC	175	+48	3.1	15.2
9½	6	20.50	Victory Corp	6½	.	..	...
341½	145	29.10	Virtual Internet	145	−15	..	
198½	41½	5.13	Voss Net	142½	−20	..	.
35½	25½	9.76	WML	34	+1½	..	33.3
3¼	1½	4.28	Weeks Group	3	..	3.7	13.0
68½	42	3.33	West 175 Enter	60½	−1	.	..
£115	9500	10.50	West Bromwich	£105	+500	..	..
9	8	3.59	Western Selectn	8¼	.	3.0	27.4
1¾	1½	0.11	Western Sel Wts	1¾	..	...	...
32½	17½	2.52	Westmount Engy	22½	...	.	..
80	50	1.76	Willington	55	.	8.7	2.2
112½	61½	13.80	Winchester	102½	+4		53.7
75	55	14.20	World Telecom	56½		..	..
135	135	4.32	Wynnstay Props	135	.	3.9	16.3
170	125	35.80	XKO	153½	−4½		...
35½	29½	6.02	Xpertise	29½		.	..
63½	51½	4.67	Yeoman	61½	.	.	
3	3	0.69	Zicor Mining	3	.	.	..

Who is doing the inflating?



ROGER BOOTLE

They seek it here, they seek it there. They seek it everywhere. They won't find much sign of inflation, though, in today's snapshot of the prices manufacturers are paying for their inputs and receiving for their products, both of which are falling. Even so, tomorrow's retail prices index (RPI) will doubtless still show prices rising. Where this inflation is coming from speaks volumes about the sharp divisions in the modern economy.

In fact, tomorrow's inflation figures will be more than usually confusing. The headline rate is likely to fall sharply to just over 2 per cent, reflecting the effects of mortgage rate reductions, while the rate excluding mortgage interest payments, the so-called underlying rate, or RPIX, which is the measure for which the Government has a target of 2.5 per cent, is likely to rise sharply to about 2.8 per cent. This reflects the impact of indirect tax increases announced in the Budget. Confused? It gets worse. The measure which excludes indirect taxes, namely RPIY, will probably come in at about 1.7 per cent.

This reveals where a good part of current inflation is coming from, namely the Government itself, in the shape of increases in indirect taxes on road fuel and tobacco, as well as increases in the council tax. Take these out of the total and you lop about 1 per cent off this month's inflation rate, and a good 0.7 per cent in a normal month. According to the European Harmonised Index, UK inflation is even lower — 1.5 per cent in the latest month. A good part of this difference is due to how you aggregate and average lots of different price changes — in technical parlance, whether you use the arithmetic or geometric mean. (Someone should ask John Prescott to explain the difference at the next Question Time.) But even if you use the more favourable geometric mean, and take out indirect taxes, you still get the result that prices are rising at some 1 per cent a year. Yet most manufacturers would give their eye teeth to be able to raise prices by 1 per cent a year. So where is the inflation coming from?

You might think that it is coming from rapacious retailers. Their margins may or may not be high but it is difficult to believe that margin increases are behind the continuing (albeit modest) inflation. Indeed, on average, excluding alcoholic drink and tobacco, the prices of goods sold in the high street are falling. Clothing and footwear prices have been falling by about 2 per cent a year, while leisure goods have been falling even faster. Moreover, surveys of retailers' expectations confirm that they expect this trend to continue. Outside the high street, other key prices are falling. Motor cars, that symbol of Sixties affluence and status, are now falling in price.

So where is the inflation? Food prices have been rising a bit, mainly driven by the seasonal component, and household goods have been rising slightly. The real culprits, however, are not goods at all but services. The price of services has been rising at more than 3 per cent a year, even as goods prices have been falling.

Even here, though, there are big differences within the sector. Some service charges, such as the cost of telephone calls, are falling fast, but things such as sports club memberships or the services of electricians or plumbers, continue to rise. The fundamental reason is the differential scope for productivity gains between the sectors. As manufacturing techniques improve, productivity can continue to rise sharply year after year. In much of the service sector, the scope for increasing productivity has apparently been limited, as you will discover the next time you have to use a plumber.

But recently there has been something else at work. The manufacturing sector has borne the brunt of exposure to sharp international competition. Manufacturers have benefited greatly from the weak prices of commodities which they use as inputs, whereas service activities use relatively little in the way of raw commodities. Yet manufacturers have also had to meet head-on the flood of cheap manufactured goods pouring on to the world market from both advanced industrial countries and the likes of China and Korea — now able to enter the UK at especially attractive prices thanks to the strong pound. By contrast, you do not find many Korean plumbers plying their trade in Upper Snodbury.

Yet I wonder how long this sharp dichotomy can continue. The key determinant of service sector prices is wages and salaries, which have been rising nicely. It now seems, though, that the rate of increase is falling back. Moreover, with recent reductions in mortgage rates set to bring the headline inflation rate down to about 1 per cent in the summer, and with unemployment likely to rise, the rate of wage increase should moderate further. So service sector inflation may fall later this year, allowing overall inflation, as measured by the underlying rate, to fall well below the Government's target, thereby underpinning further reductions in interest rates.

Looking further out, I wonder whether the service sector can remain quite so unaffected by both technology-driven productivity gains and competition from abroad. The advances in computer applications and communications technology have profound implications for many service activities. It is well-known that a number of Western companies already use workers living in India for both sophisticated computer programming work and relatively unsophisticated ticketing and insurance claim processing. But this may be the tip of the iceberg. Remote diagnostics offer untold possibilities.

Perhaps a plumber based in Korea will be able to diagnose the problem with the drains in Upper Snodbury — even if he will not be able to operate the rods himself from Seoul.

roger.bootle@capitaleconomics.com

The bets go on in Russia

George Walker leads a cast of Britons staging a comeback in Moscow, says Jon Ashworth



Two aspects of a changing Moscow: a homeless woman sleeping in a modern bus shelter bearing advertising for cigarettes

As the Grand National field thundered home, grimy Russian punters gathered in the litter-strewn surrounds of the Hippodrome racecourse in Moscow. Clutching their betting slips, they watched, mesmerised, as the action unfolded on three giant screens, beamed via satellite from the other side of Europe.

Outside, George Walker, Fifties champion boxer and founder of Brent Walker, gazed across the deserted racetrack — an expanse of mud and stunted grass flanked by grim blocks of flats. The place is in disrepair, paint peeling from once elegant walls. However, for Walker, 70, it represents all that is possible on the new frontier. "Move this out," he muttered, gesturing with a rough, calloused hand. "Here comes Brent Cross Two."

The two sides of the Hippodrome — racing by satellite and potential shopping centre — encapsulate the freewheeling spirit that has swept Russia since the old icons fell. Walker, who has spent six years here, is one of the new breed of investors to target the former Soviet Union. However, political and economic uncertainty and an anti-Western backlash over the Balkan crisis make for difficult times.

Nato's action has gone down badly. Police guard the paint-splattered US embassy. Sabre-rattling in the Kremlin and faltering steps to impeach President Yeltsin make for a peculiarly Russian brew.

Yet, on first sight, life in Moscow seems anything but fraught. This is a city of boulevards and space, far from the forbidding Iron Curtain image. The crowds strolling in Red Square could be the residents of any Western city. Where are the Russian mafiosi, waiting to gun down unsuspecting foreigners?

Moscow's ambitious mayor, Yuri Luzkhov, has embraced privatisation, sparking a construction boom and opening doors to gambling. Western banks have funded projects ranging from a ring road to shops and offices. The rouble may be worthless, but the evidence is well hidden.

Walker recalls: "When I first came here in the early Nineties, the thing that struck me about Moscow was how dark it was. Street after street of black walls, with no lights, no shops. Now, it's London, it's Paris, it's New York. It's just like any major city."

Yet doing business here undoubtedly has its own rules. Russians are sensitive to criticism, and value actions above words. Last August, in the midst of the currency crisis, Walker signed a lease on new offices in downtown Moscow. He says: "When everybody else was getting out, I was coming in, and it's stood me in very good stead. Here, it's a question of who you are and can you perform: can you do what you say you're going to do?"

Russia has proved a stamping ground for UK business names out to start afresh. Sir Rocco Forte, rendered jobless (but rich) in 1996 when Forte fell to Granada, runs two hotels in St Petersburg, including the five-star Astoria. A spokesman says: "Business has been picking up despite the economic situation, but most of our plans are on hold." Other regular visitors include Kevin Maxwell and his brother Ian, consultants to potential investors.

Karl Johansson, managing partner in Ernst & Young in Moscow, says that business dynamics shifted with the rouble crisis. "August was a defining moment, because everyone's hopes and expectations were for a continuing improvement in investment opportunities," he says. "But with the rouble, and a lack of confidence in the Government not honouring its debts, companies are not looking to make major investments, but are rather maintaining what they have."

Johansson agrees that Moscow looks far from depressed. "The paradox is that it does not have the appearance one would expect from press coverage," he says. "There have been bank failures, but many people operate outside the banking system. It's not the same as in Asia, where there was a lot more social unrest."



Walker: shopping centre aim

Johannson sees red tape as an issue — "you have to work to get things done" — but says that many ills of Russian life, such as mob wars, have been overstated. "Moscow, at least personally, is as safe as any city in the US," he says. "There is violence, but it tends to be Russian-to-Russian."

The US is the largest source of direct investment in Russia. Coca-Cola is putting up to $800 million (£500 million) into new bottling plants. Johannson says: "There is a lot of potential here, but the structural reforms that are needed — financial, tax and legal — have not occurred at the pace expected. We've got to have a climate that allows for more efficient investment."

For Walker, at any rate, Russia has been a good bet. Turfed out of Brent Walker in 1991, his bout with the Serious Fraud Office, from which he emerged bruised but unbowed, left it impossible for him to do business in the UK. "Once you're charged in England, nobody will touch you with a bargepole," he says. "There was a big article about Moscow and what it needed. I was asked: 'Can you get us cigarettes?'."

Walker obliged, and then turned his attention to off-track betting, a business he knows well; Brent Walker embraced clubs and casinos, as well as William Hill, the bookmaker. Racing in Russia largely died with the Revolution, leaving an obvious opportunity.

Walker bought rights to the satellite signal transmitted from UK racetracks, and installed a few television screens to see what happened. Encouraged, he formed Premier Telesports, backed by George Soros and Edinburgh Fund Managers, and hired Russian translators to supply commentary from a London studio.

Five years on, punters from Tbilisi to St Petersburg tune in to action from Newmarket and Derby Lane. Walker has won a licence to set up a tote in Moscow, and hopes to have 500 units installed by late June. In November, he will launch Russia's first online lottery, using the machines that take bets on the horses and dogs.

Walker insists that he has met no problems with Russian mobsters, although someone once pulled a gun on him in a dispute over an airline seat. He gets on well with Russians, with his tough East End manner and boxer's physique. "I've never been threatened or intimidated," he says. "I've encountered nothing but friendship." His right-hand man, Konstantin Batchkala, was a former rising star in the Communist youth movement.

As for Moscow's Hippodrome, Walker is hopeful of repeating his success of 25 years ago, when he built the UK's then-biggest shopping centre, Brent Cross, on the site of a greyhound track in North London. He has started selling the idea to Moscow's authorities.

A former East End boxer bringing shopping malls to Moscow? In the new Russia, anything is possible.

TELEVISION CHOICE

A tomb reveals its secrets

The Mysteries of the Mummies
Channel 4, 8pm

The story of the mummified corpses, dating back up to 3,000 years, discovered on the western desert fringes of China, on the ancient Silk Road linking East and West, is familiar, but this film manages to collate the evidence in a new fashion and makes a convincing case for there having been a civilisation of tall, fair-haired people, almost certainly of Celtic origin, in this area. They seem to have founded cities and traded with the nomadic tribes to the north, with whom they eventually interbred and by whom they were absorbed. Their distinctive weaving skills (the first tartans and plaids) are now long lost.

Disaster: Atomic Inferno
BBC2, 8pm

A dramatic reconstruction of the worst nuclear accident to date in Britain, at the reactor at Windscale in 1957. The potential for a fire in the nuclear pile (rushed into construction to provide us with our own atomic bomb) was virtually designed in, against all conventional wisdom. When the inevitable happened, there were not only no procedures for putting it out safely, but nobody let the local population know about the fallout. As many as 100 deaths are now thought to have resulted. Now, of course, the place is renamed Sellafield and is one of the most popular tourist attractions in the country.

Butterfly Collectors
ITV, 9pm

Paul Abbott, Hilary Bevan Jones and Jean Stewart are the writer/producer/director team who worked on *Cracker*. Here, in a two-parter (concluded tomorrow) they collaborate with Pete Postlethwaite as a disillusioned Manchester policeman, caught up in the case of a young man (Jamie Draven) arrested on suspicion of murder. Abbott's screenplay has echoes of Mike Leigh, but the bleak tale, shot through with black and acid humour, goes its own way as Postlethwaite's character discovers more and more about Draven's circumstances, and is drawn into a situation of which he realises he knows very little, too late. Draven, Postlethwaite, Alison Newman, Crissy Rock and Rachel Davies put in excellent work in a disturbing piece which deserves credit all round.

Alison Newman and Pete Postlethwaite star in *Butterfly Collectors* (ITV, 9pm)

Equinox
Channel 4, 9pm

The Leaning Tower of Pisa is one of the wonders of the world, the most famous listing listed building, and, as this film reminds us, one of the world's most puzzling phenomena. For eight centuries it has defied gravity and, it would appear, was tilting from the start, since its builders had to incorporate corrections even before it was completed. They were operating beyond the limits of their technology and had chosen a position on silty soil, with a water table just inches below the surface. This is an account of how a present-day committee of experts (all adamantly refusing to accept their colleagues' views) almost brought the structure crashing down but, thanks to the sole Briton involved, may now have given Pisa an extra 300 years of tourist revenue by slightly correcting the lean. **Tony Patrick**

RADIO CHOICE

Performance on 3
Radio 3, 7.30pm

Not all music-makers are in favour of 17th and 18th-century works being played on original instru- ments of the period or on reconstructions of them. And yet controversy has done nothing to diminish the success of the Academy of Ancient Music, the ensemble founded in 1973 by Christopher Hogwood. Tonight's live concert from St John's, Smith Square, celebrates the Academy's 25th season. It's a rerun of a feast of Handel music given 250 years ago in aid of London's Foundling Hospital for orphaned and deprived children. Handel was one of the hospital's most generous benefactors. In tonight's interval (8.10), Hogwood joins a distinguished panel to discuss the 20th-century employment of period instruments.

Afternoon Play: Future Perfect
Radio 4, 2.15pm

Charlotte Jones has written a sad drama that is as much a *time* play as any of J.B. Priestley's, though that is where the comparison ends because *Future Perfect* is specifically about tenses (past, present or future). When her husband mysteriously vanishes, Helen (Lesley Vickerage) inadvertently admits that she is suspended in a half-grammatical, half-emotional limbo — the future perfect conditional tense ("If my husband had not disappeared, I would not be feeling so bad"). One day, she hopes, she will graduate to the perfect future tense, without conditions and with no more "ifs". But this will depend on her spouse turning up. A clever little play this, and not half as academic as I have perhaps made it sound. **Peter Davalle**

RADIO 1 (BBC)

6.30am Zoe Ball **9.00** Simon Mayo **12.00** Jo Whiley **3.00pm** Chris Moyles **5.45** Newsbeat **6.00** Dave Pearce **8.00** Lamacq Live. The latest sounds **12.00** The Breezeblock **2.00am** Clive Warren **4.00** Scott Mills

RADIO 2 (BBC)

6.00am Sarah Kennedy **7.30** Wake Up to Wogan **9.30** Ken Bruce **12.00** Jimmy Young **2.00pm** Ed Stewart **5.05** Johnnie Walker *7.00 Humphrey Lyttelton 8.00 Big Band Special* **8.30** Jools Holland **9.30** Joe Brown: Let It Rock (3/13) **10.30** Lynn Parsons. With educational psychologist Brian Harrison-Jennings and a spokesperson from Childline **12.00** Katrina Leskanich **3.00am** Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE (BBC)

5.00am Morning Reports **6.00** Breakfast. Presented by Victoria Derbyshire and Nick Robinson **9.00** Nicky Campbell **12.00** The Midday News **1.00pm** Ian Payne **4.00** Drive **7.00** News Extra **7.30** Wembley Winners. Peter Slater looks back at the 1957 FA Cup final between Aston Villa and Manchester United **8.00** Trevor Brooking's Monday Match. Commentary on Arsenal's FA Premiership clash with Wimbledon at Highbury **10.00** Late Night Live **1.00am** Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am The *Big Boys Breakfast* **9.00** Scott Chisholm **12.00** Let's Talk Soap **1.00pm** Anna Raeburn **4.00** The Sports Zone **7.00** Under the Posts **8.00** James Whale **1.00am** Ian Collins

VIRGIN

6.30am The Breakfast Show **9.30** Mark Forrest **1.00pm** Nick Abbot **4.00** Harriet Scott **6.45** Pete and Geoff **10.00** Gary Davies **1.00am** Richard Allen

BBC WORLD SERVICE

5.00am The World Today **7.00** World News **7.15** Talking Point **7.55** My Century **8.00** World News **8.05** World Business Report **8.15** Coffee- A Hellish Brew **8.30** Everywoman **9.00** World News **9.05** Record News **9.20** Off the Shelf: Frankenstein **9.35** Health Matters **10.00** World News **10.05** Business Class **10.20** Counterpoint **10.50** Sports Round-Up **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** Britain Today **11.45** World Business Report **12.00** Newsdesk **12.30pm** Pick of the World **1.00** World News **1.05** Outlook **1.45** Sports Round-Up **2.00** Newshour **3.00** World News **3.05** Health Matters **3.30** Meridian **4.00** World News **4.05** *Sports Roundup 4.15 Soundbyte 4.30 Composer Of the Month* **5.00** Europe Today **5.30** World Business Report **5.45** Insight **6.00** Newsdesk **6.30** The Way We Are **6.45** Sports Round-Up **7.00** World News **7.15** Britain Today **7.30** The Khalsa **8.00** World News **8.05** Health Matters **8.30** The Farming World **8.45** Off the Shelf: Frankenstein **9.00** Newshour **10.00** World News **10.05** World Business Report **10.20** Britain Today **10.30** Meridian **11.00** World News **11.15** Sports Round-Up **11.30** The UK Top Twenty **12.00** World News **12.05am** Outlook **12.45** Insight **1.00** The World Today **1.30** Health Matters **1.55** My Century **2.00** The World Today **2.30** Westway **2.45** Record News **3.00** The World Today **3.30** World Business Report **3.45** Insight **4.00** The World Today **4.20** Sports Round-Up **4.30** The World Today

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Nick Bailey's Easier Breakfast. Favourite musical works, plus regular information updates **8.00** Henry Kelly. The Hall of Fame Hour and CD of the Week **12.00** Lunchtime Requests. Jane Jones presents listeners' favourites **2.00pm** Concerto. Danzi (Horn Concerto In E major) **3.00** Jamie Crick. Continuous Classics and Afternoon Romance **6.30** Newsnight. John Brunning presents the latest stories **7.00** Smooth Classics at Seven. Two hours of soothing sounds **9.00** Evening Concert. Dukas (Polyeucte Overture), Mozart (Violin Concerto No 5 in A major); Faure (Ballade for Piano and Orchestra) **11.00** Mann at Night. Wind down with the sound of ambient music **2.00am** Concerto. Danzi (Horn Concerto in E major) (r) **3.00** Mark Griffiths. The Early Breakfast Show

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air Petroc Trelawny presents music and arts news, including a review of the concerts in the *Endless Parade* season
9.00 Masterworks with Peter Hobday. Corelli (Concerto grosso in D, Op 6 No 1); Schumann (Abegg Variations, Op 1); Telemann (Overture-Suite in G, Hamburger ebb und fluth)
10.30 **Artist of the Week** *Joan Bakewell talks to the* soprano Gwyneth Jones about her life
11.00 Sound Stories: Five Great Rivers Donald Macleod investigates the Rhine
12.00 Composer of the Week: Stanford
1.00pm The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert Live from Wigmore Hall, London. Ysaye Quartet. (Haydn (String Quartet in C, Op 54 No 2), Dvorak (String Quartet in F, Op 96, American)
2.00 The BBC Orchestras BBC National Orchestra of Wales. Tippett (Suite in D (A Birthday Suite for Prince Charles); Maw (The World in the Evening); Mendelssohn (Violin Concerto in E minor)
4.00 Opera in Action with Graeme Kay
5.00 In Tune Sean Rafferty's guests include the opera director Robert Carsen, whose new production of Handel's *Semele* opens tonight
7.30 Performance on 3 Live from St John's, Smith Square, a gala concert celebrating the twenty-fifth season of the Academy of Ancient Music. Emma Kirkby, soprano, James Bowman, countertenor, *Anthony Rolfe Johnson, tenor*, Peter Harvey, baritone, Andrew Manze, violin, Choir of New College, Oxford, Academy of Ancient Music under Paul Goodwin and Christopher Hogwood. Handel (Music for the Royal Fireworks, How Beautiful Are the Feet) See Choice **8.10** Period Instruments **8.30** Concert, part two. Handel (Soloman, excerpts; Concerto grosso in A, Op 6 No 11; Blessed Are They That Consider the Poor)
9.55 Postscript: Private View Nicholas Ward Jackson explores the contemporary art world (r)
10.00 Haydn and Bartok Lars Vogt, piano. Haydn (Sonata in G, H XVI 40); Bartok (Three Hungarian Folk Songs from the Csik District) (r)
11.00 Night Waves Tim Marlow explores the European fascination with islands
11.30 Jazz Notes with Alyn Shipton
12.00 Through the Night Includes **12.05** Clerambault (Cantata L'isle de Delos) **12.30** Mieczyslaw Karlowicz (Stanislaw and Anna Oswiecim) **1.00** Jaunite Putnina, piano); Bach (18 Pieces for Mechanical Clock); Handel (Suite No 6 in G minor), Couperin (Pieces de clavecin, Order No 11) **2.00** Rimsky-Korsakov (Scheherazade) **2.45** Liszt (Mephisto Waltz No 1) **3.00-4.30** Schools Music Box **3.15** Something to Think About **3.30** The Song Tree **3.45** Stories and Rhymes **4.00** Tales from Europe **4.15** Music for Dance **5.00** Copland (Las agachadas) **5.20** Trad Swiss, arr Scheurer (Aargauerlied) **5.25** MacDowell (Piano Sonata No 2, Op 50, Eroica) **5.50** Corelli (Sonate da Chiesa in B flat major, Op 3 No 3)

RADIO 4

5.30am World News 5.35 Shipping Forecast
5.40 Inshore Forecast 5.45 Prayer for the Day
5.47 Farming Today Charlotte Smith presents
6.00 Today with Sue MacGregor and James Naughtie
9.00 Start the Week Discussion programme, hosted by Jeremy Paxman
9.45 (FM) Serial: Idle Thoughts of an Idle Fellow First of five essays by Jerome K. Jerome, read by Hugh Laurie
9.45 (LW) Daily Service Director of music David Saint
10.00 Woman's Hour with Martha Kearney and guests. Includes *Diary of a Provincial Lady*
11.00 Mapping the Town The Archaeologist Julian Richards traces Basingstoke's links with the past and discovers why the pig market moved (2/4)
11.30 Full Moon Tipton Plimsoll falls in love with Veronica. Third part of P G. Wodehouse's comic tale, with Giles Havergal and Paul Birchard (3/4)
12.00 (LW) News Headlines; Shipping Forecast
12.00 (FM) News 12.04pm You and Yours With Liz Barclay and John Waite
1.00 The World at One with Nick Clarke
1.30 Mastermind General knowledge quiz hosted by Peter Snow
2.00 The Archers Yesterday's edition (r)
2.15 Afternoon Play: Future Perfect by Charlotte Jones. With Lesley Vickerage, Harry Myers and Sandra James Young. See Choice
3.00 Money Box Live: 0870 010 0444 Vincent Duggleby takes listeners' personal finance queries
3.30 A Week at the Pitt Rivers New series. The cartoonist Tim Hunkin is the first of five visitors to reflect on exhibits in Oxford's Pitt Rivers museum
3.45 This Sceptred Isle Anna Massey narrates part 76 of the history of Britain (r)
4.00 The Food Programme The wine writer Andrew Jefford explores alcohol abuse (r)
4.30 Four Corners with Jane Franchi and guests
5.00 PM with Clare English and Chris Lowe
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 Quote, Unquote Popular quiz, with guests Tom Baker, Don Black and Gemma O'Conner. Chaired by Nigel Rees
7.00 The Archers The Vicar gets her marching orders
7.15 Front Row Francine Stock reviews Joel Schumacher's new film *8mm*, with Nicolas Cage
7.45 Diary of a Provincial Lady by E M Delafield. The daily journal of a well-organised 1930s housewife. Broadcast as part of *Woman's Hour* (r)
8.00 An Inspector Calls New series about public safety inspectors, beginning as Jenny Cuffe explores the work of fire investigators (1/3)
8.30 Analysis Ian Hargreaves examines the significance of the countryside to the British people. Dreaming of Green Pastures
9.00 Spring Watch Nick Baker encounters mountain hares and searches for toads
9.30 Start the Week Broadcast earlier (r)
10.00 The World Tonight Justin Webb presents
10.45 Book at Bedtime: The Service of Clouds Joanna David reads the first part of Susan Hill's new novel
11.00 Late Night on 4: Voyage Part two of Stephen Baxter's tale. Natalie considers applying for a place in Nasa's Mars mission. With Laurel Lefkow and Vincent Marzello
11.30 (FM) Crossing Continents Rosie Goldsmith visits the Indian state of Gujarat to meet ship-brokers on the beach at Alang (r)
11.30 (LW) Today in Parliament Round-up of events in Westminster
12.00 News 12.30am The Late Book: Biggest Elvis An intriguing novel about three Elvis impersonators working in the Philippines Written by P.F. Kluge and read by Ron Berglas (r)
12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. **RADIO 2.** FM 88.0-90.2. **RADIO 3.** FM 90.2-92.4. **RADIO 4.** FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. **RADIO 5 LIVE.** MW 693, 909. **WORLD SERVICE.** MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). **CLASSIC FM.** FM 100-102. **VIRGIN RADIO.** FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. **TALK RADIO.** MW 1053, 1089.
Television and radio listings compiled by Perry Cleveland-Peck, Ian Hughes, Gillian Maxey, Jane Gregory and Barry O'Keefe

A tale of one man's fantasy lived to the full

REVIEW



Paul Hoggart

I expect the BBC had rejected "The History Hour" (too short) and "The History Period" (wrong connotations) and they already had a "Comedy Zone". "Zone" sounds hip, futuristic, dangerous, and "Two Hours When We Run All Our Historical Series One After Another" doesn't hit the spot. So we got "The History Zone".

Why stop there? All the environmental programmes could go in "The Ozone Zone". The History Channel could bung its few programmes which are not about warfare into "The Demilitarised Zone". All those wheel-clamping neighbours from hell could go into ITV's "Residents' Parking Zone".

"The History Zone" is part of the BBC's return to Reithian values, apparently, but I doubt if the canny old Puritan would have been impressed by this schedule-shuffling and slapping on a sexy new label — rearranging the documentaries on the *Titanic*, as it were. Programmes must stand or fall on merit.

Ironically, the centrepiece of the first "History Zone" was about a man who changed his name and not only pretended to be, but actually became, something much more interesting than he was in the first place. **Grey Owl: The Great White Hoax** (BBC2, Friday), the *Timewatch* biography of this remarkable fantasist, would have been worth watching however it was packaged.

Born in 1888 to a mother who was barely 16 and an alcoholic, bankrupt, absent father, Archie Belaney was brought up by disapproving maiden aunts in Hastings. Obsessed by yarns of "Red Indians" he emigrated to Canada at 17 and headed for the wilderness in search of adventure.

His first Native American wife taught him how to fish and trap beaver. Beaver became a central part of his life, a fact which could lead to much puerile ribaldry if this programme is screened in America. He had a natural rapport with animals and could, apparently, "attract a moose". He changed his name to Grey Owl, dyed his skin and, under the influence of his third wife, a Native American called Anahereo, became a proto-ecologist devoted to preserving wildlife.

Asked to give a talk in a small town, he became an overnight celebrity and the deception spiralled out of control, with articles, "biographical" books, novels and world lecture tours, including an audience at Buckingham Palace.

His neighbours in the Saskatchewan National Park complained that he was a boorish drunkard, and many claimed they realised he was a phoney. His story was so outlandish that it should have been ludicrous. But it was actually rather inspiring. His career was a phenomenal feat of "b.s.", as one former Mountie put it, and he awakened worldwide interest in environmental issues. The hoax was exposed when he died of pneumonia, alcohol and overwork, but no one was that bothered. He dreamt big and the world dreamt with him.

Not like the poor creatures on **The Matchmaker** (BBC1, Friday). All they want is a wealthy, professional, good-looking, self-reliant, lively, fun, committed partner over 5ft 6in, but under women's size 16, who will cherish them and be that very special person in their life.

You might think it would be easier to dress up in buckskin and attract a moose, but that doesn't stop them applying for membership of The Executive Club. This upmarket, elite, exclusive dating agency is for professionals only and strictly no riff-raff.

It was priceless. I can't remember when I last actually enjoyed watching a docusoap. Somewhere along the line the producer/director decided to allow Alun Jenkins, the agency's creator, to do his own narration. This would be a disaster with the professional "characters" in most of these series, but Alun is a very special person.

He is specially oily, specially conceited, manipulative and unaware that he speaks entirely in aspirant lower middle-class clichés. He is also, at 5ft 3½in, especially short and therefore especially ineligible to join his own club.

I suspect this is all a hoax and Alun was specially written for television by Alan Ayckbourn or Mike Leigh.

"You are like finding a kingfisher with a broken wing," he tells Julie, 47 and getting a bit desperate. Go on, Alun. I bet you tell that to all the girls. (Later we discover that he does.) The first programme was rivetingly ghastly, but I have already seen next week's instalment and it gets much, much worse.

After the acclaim of *Holding On* and his striking adaptation of *Great Expectations*, the writer and gloom-monger Tony Marchant is back again with **Bad Blood** (ITV, Sunday). Desperate to adopt, a wealthy English doctor and his wife go to Romania and find an orphan brought up in the forest, possibly by devil-worshippers. While there the doctor may have acquired a nasty virus and passed it onto one of his private patients in London.

It is an attempt at contemporary Gothic, playing on our paranoias about blood-borne diseases and our horrified Western guilt about Romanian orphanages. The characters' names echo Bram Stoker's *Dracula*, and there are unconvincing Hammer horror stick-ons. Baleful wolves pop up everywhere and the doctor gets dive-bombed by an ominous crow.

Yet it was insidiously gripping. Wasn't it the Bonzo Dog Doo Dah Band who sang "Bad blood is like an egg-stain on your tie; you can pick it, but it won't go away"? How right they were.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (29105)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (48884)
9.00 Kilroy (T) (9867722)
9.45 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (T) (258635)
10.15 The Vanessa Show (T); World Book Day (3643726)
11.00 News; Weather (T) (5655426)
11.05 City Hospital (T) (9865155)
11.55 News; Weather (T) (7394118)
12.00 Going for a Song (4136105)
12.25pm Just a Minute New series. Nicholas Parsons hosts as the classic radio quiz comes to TV (T) (1986682)
12.55 The Weather Show (T) (11428180)
1.00 One O'Clock News (T) (41971)
1.30 Regional News; Weather (58866432)
1.40 Neighbours Joel clashes with his physiotherapist (T) (16024529)
2.05 Ironside Killers hold a robber's child to ransom for the proceeds of a bank raid (r); World Book Day (1912987)
2.55 Through the Keyhole (r) (T) (2808242)
3.25 Children's BBC: Playdays (8245426) **3.45** Bob the Builder (4935890) **3.55** Wildlife (7980987) **4.00** Bodger & Badger (5692074) **4.15** Casper (7182567) **4.35** 50/50 (7233971) **5.00** Newsround (5272068) **5.10** Blue Peter (2106567)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (148180)
6.00 Six O'Clock News; Weather (T) (258)
6.30 Regional News Magazine (838)



Des Lynam and Mark Lawrenson join Ally McCoist's team (7pm)

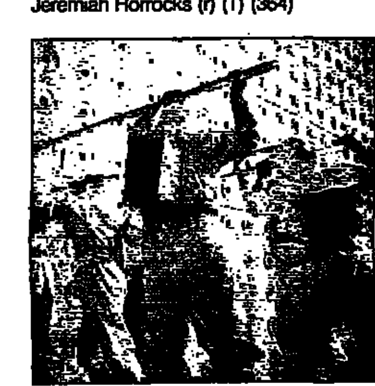
7.00 A Question of Sport: Football Pundits Special Desmond Lynam, Mark Lawrenson, Martin O'Neill and Trevor Brooking take part in a special edition of the sports quiz (T) (2345)
7.30 The Zoo Keepers Life with the staff and animals of Paignton Zoo (r) (T) (722)
8.00 EastEnders Matthew can't take any more (T) (1093)
8.30 Ground Force Alan Titchmarsh visits a teenage wheelchair-user's garden to make a racetrack for his radio-controlled cars (r) (T) (7600)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News; Regional News; Weather (T) (464093)
9.35 Jailbirds Prison Chaplain reflects on the ironies of her job (10/10) (T) (879180)
10.05 Panorama (T) (163223)
10.45 Animal Police Steve needs help with an alsatian. Last in series (T) (320971)
***11.15 The Morrison Murders* (TVM 1996)** FILM Premiere. Fact-based murder mystery about two young men suspected of cold-bloodedly killing their parents and younger brother. Starring John Corbett and Jonathan Scarfe. Directed by Chris Thompson (T) (310529)
12.45am Weather (1104117)
12.50 BBC News 24 (66044391)

WALES

9.30-9.35 Party Election Broadcast (126635)
12.45am-12.50 News (T) (1104117)

BBC2

7.00am Children's BBC Breakfast Show: Noddy in Toyland (40242) **7.30** Top Cat (8744797) **7.55** Blue Peter (8165890) **8.20** Dastardly and Muttley (4147513) **8.45** Polka Dot Shorts (3352451) **8.55** Small Stones (1828971) **9.00** Daytime On Two: Isabel (4808109) **9.10** Sportsbank (9347600) **9.30** Numbertime (7253616) **9.45** Storytime (7178971) **10.00** Children's BBC: Teletubbies (91432) **10.30** Daytime On Two: Words and Pictures (3806616) **10.45** Cats' Eyes (3721971) **11.00** Look and Read (1703906) **11.20** Zig Zag (6259277) **11.40** Landmarks (4833529) **12.05pm** History File (7386628) **12.30** Working Lunch (48277) **1.00** Juniper Jungle (38008109)
1.10 Snooker: World Championship First-round action, featuring the opening matches of Ken Doherty, Alain Robidoux, Peter Ebdon and James Wattana. Presented by David Vine (84182722)
6.00 Hit, Miss or Maybe Zoe Ball and guests review three of the latest pop videos (r) (T) (479838)
6.15 The Simpsons Mr Burns advertises for a son and heir, and it appears that Bart fits the bill (r) (T) (848857)
6.40 Space 1999 Gerry Anderson's sci-fi drama following the adventures of the staff of Moonbase Alpha (r) (T) (842906)
7.30 Local Heroes Adam Hart-Davis gets on his bike to celebrate Merseyside's unsung pioneers, including the Meccano creator Frank Hornby and the astronomer Jeremiah Horrocks (r) (T) (364)



Workers trying to create a fire-break inside the power station (8pm)

8.00 CHOICE **Disaster** John Nettles recounts the events thought to have sparked the 1957 blaze at the Windscale nuclear reactor (T) (9635)
8.30 Snooker: World Championship Peter Ebdon plays his match against Matthew Stevens to a finish, while Mark King starts out against Darren Morgan (22686797)
10.33 Video Nation Shorts (T) (413616)
10.35 Newsnight Round-up of the day's events (T) (233277)
11.25 The Pull of the City New series exploring the rapid expansion of urban life across the world, beginning with Harvey Molotch's survey of New York (1/3) (504432) **11.55** Weather (804628)
12.00 Despatch Box (97391)
12.30am BBC Learning Zone: Open University: Composing — George Fenton in Conversation with Trevor Herbert **1.00** In the Market Place **1.30** Church and Mosque: Venice and Istanbul **2.00** Schools: Primary PSHE — Ourselves/Health **4.00** Languages. Deutsch Plus **5.00** Business and Training: Skills for Work — Customer Care **5.45** Open University. The Chosen People **6.10** Classical Sculpture and the Enlightenment **6.35** The Bathers by Cézanne and Renoir — Modernism and the Nude

HTV WEST

5.30am ITV Morning News (11345)
6.00 GMTV (2700432)
9.25 Trisha (T) (3453703)
10.30 This Morning (T) (49997971)
12.15pm HTV News (T) (7850155)
12.30 ITV Lunchtime News (T) (2554109)
12.55 Shortland Street Martin attempts damage control (1613987)
1.30 Lie Detector (T) (16940513)
1.55 The Jerry Springer Show Outrageous American talk show (T) (5808971)
2.40 Wheel of Fortune (T) (2804426)
3.10 ITV News Headlines (T) (5678722)
3.15 HTV News (T) (5677093)
3.20 CITV: Maisy (5674906) **3.25** Oggy and the Cockroaches (5664529) **3.35** Rupert (2301548) **4.00** The New Scooby Doo Mysteries (277) **4.30** Polterguests (161)
5.00 Catchphrase (r) (T) (7277)
5.30 WEST: Garden Calendar Horticultural tips courtesy of gardening experts Alan and Felicity Down (T) (513)
5.30 WALES: House to House A young couple's home in Llanharry (T) (513)
5.58 HTV Weather (733548)
6.00 HTV News (T) (426)
6.25 WALES: Party Election Broadcast By the United Socialists (350364)
6.29 Crimestoppers (350364)
6.30 ITV Evening News; Weather (T) (906)
7.00 Wish You Were Here? A sailing holiday through the Grenadines, Revello on the Amalfi Coast of Italy, an all-inclusive holiday in the Rhodes resort of Lindos and Legoland in Windsor (T) (4513)
7.30 Coronation Street It's crunch time for Nick and Leanne (T) (890)
8.00 Neighbours From Hell Accounts of neighbourly disputes (r) (T) (6161)
8.30 Cop Shop DS Oliver and his team set out to catch one of the country's most persistent car thieves (6/8) (T) (9068)
9.00 CHOICE **Butterfly Collectors** First in a two-part psychological thriller with Pete Postlethwaite (1/2) (T) (4161)



Lewis Collins makes an appearance as Doug Digby's father (10.30pm)

10.30 The Grimleys Digby's dastardly dad drops in — literally (5/6) (T) (21068)
11.00 ITV Nightly News; Weather (T) (875432)
11.20 HTV News and Weather (T) (760161)
11.30 Fitz Part two. Fitz confronts the unbalanced Janice, who has kidnapped his son (T) (550451)
12.35am Football Extra *Football League highlights* (6308001)
1.35 World Football (r) (9291136)
2.05 The Night Caller (1965) FILM Sci-fi thriller about alien mutants who abduct Earth girls as a means of repopulating their decimated planet. John Saxon and Maurice Denham star. Directed by John Gilling (8691778)
3.30 Trisha Shown earlier (r) (T) (74407)
4.30 Soundtrax (83610407)
4.45 ITV Nightscreen (25826488)
5.00 Coronation Street (r) (T) (99310)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:
12.20-12.30pm Central News; Weather (9078884)
12.55 Lie Detector (2459600)
1.25 The Jerry Springer Show (4703616)
2.10-2.40 High Road (89776987)
3.15-3.20 Central News; Weather (5677093)
5.30 Shortland Street (513)
6.00-6.30 Central News at Six; Weather (426)
11.20-11.30 Central News; Weather (760161)
3.20am Trisha (2975885)
4.20 Central Jobfinder '99 (2559827)
5.20-5.30 Asian Eye (9305198)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:
12.15pm Westcountry News (7850155)
12.27-12.30 Illuminations (9159703)
12.55-1.25 Westcountry Lunchtime Live; Weather (2459600)
1.25 The Jerry Springer Show (4703616)
2.10-2.40 Lie Detector (89776987)
3.15-3.20 Westcountry News; Weather (5677093)
4.50 Animal SOS (513)
6.00-6.30 Westcountry Live; Weather (426)
11.20-11.30 Westcountry News; Weather (760161)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except: **12.15pm-12.30 Meridian News;** Weather (7850155) **5.30 A Weekend's Work** (4/7) (513) **6.00-6.30 Meridian Tonight** (T) (426) **7.29-7.30 Meridian Weather** (470987) **11.20 Meridian News;** Weather (T) (310600) **11.35-12.35 Prisoner: Cell Block H** (570744) **5.00am-5.30 Freescreen** (T) (99310)

ANGLIA

As HTV West except: **12.14pm Anglia Air Watch** (9161548) **12.15-12.30 Anglia News and Weather** (7850155) **5.25 Take It On** (5971628) **5.29 Anglia Air Watch** (5971628) **5.30-6.00 Anglia News Monday Extra;** Weather (T) (513) **6.00-6.30 Anglia News** (T) (426) **11.19 Anglia Air Watch** (384890) **11.20 Anglia News and Weather** (T) (760161) **11.30 The Big Match** (11242) **12.00-12.35 Taxi** (7117778)

S4C

Starts: **5.55am Sesame Street** (r) (28836703) **7.00 The Big Breakfast** (69703567) **9.00 Ysgolion:** The English Programme (92864703) **9.25 Schools at Work** (67042567) **9.45 Artistiaid Yng Nghymru** (37521890) **10.00 Stage Two Science** (62441616) **10.15 People in Society** (62464567) **10.30 Place and People** (39715277) **10.45 Same Difference** (39703432) **11.00 Rat-A-Tat-Tat** (25181703) **11.15 The Mix** (25008426) **11.30 Taste of the Times** (5/6) (r) (T) (90408161) **12.00 Caroline in the City** (T) (63244529) **12.30pm Sesame Street** (r) (T) (15620971) **12.55 Planed Plant** (T) (73697987) **1.30 Classic Cars** (7/8) (T) (93061068) **2.00 Trading Up** (2/6) (T) (41555432) **2.30 To the Ends of the Earth** (T) (32388109) **3.30 Collectors' Lot** (T) (99189180) **4.00 Fifteen-to-One** (T) (99175987) **4.30 The Montel Williams Show** (T) (99091971) **5.00 Planed Plant** (41473884) **5.30 Countdown** (T) (99188451) **6.00 Newyddion 6** (T) (49549971) **6.10 Heno** (T) (39400616) **7.00 Pobol y Cwm** (T) (41566548) **7.30 Newyddion** (T) (99092600) **8.00 Ma 'Ifan 'Ma** (T) (41479068) **8.30 Glan Clwyd** (T) (41554703) **9.00 Etholiad '99** (27113971) **10.00 Sgorio** (T) (34664513) **11.05 Equinox** (T) (28397616) **12.05am FILM: Body Snatchers** (T) (14025391) **1.45 Diwedd 4.00 Ysgolion**

CHANNEL 4

5.40am Pink Panther (2687987)
5.50 The Magic Roundabout (2077109)
5.55 Sesame Street (r) (5733971)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (37722)
9.00 Schools: The English Programme (7786884) **9.25** Schools at Work (3003345) **9.30** Geography Junction (7175884) **9.45** Book Box (7276567) **10.00** Stage Two Science (1378426) **10.15** People in Society (1464277) **10.30** Place and People (9250242) **10.50** Same Difference (8476155) **11.00** Rat-a-Tat-Tat (6240529) **11.15** The Mix (6256180)
11.30 Taste of the Times (5/6) (r) (T) (2567)
12.00 Sesame Street (r) (T) (32631)
12.30pm Bewitched (r) (T) (33345)
1.00 Caroline in the City (T) (47109)
1.30 Little Gems Collecting fun (13847180)
1.35 I'll See You in My Dreams (1952) FILM Musical biography chronicling the life and times of the songwriter Gus Kahn. Starring Doris Day and Danny Thomas. Directed by Michael Curtiz (T) (81261277)
3.30 Collectors' Lot (T) (884)
4.00 Fifteen-to-One (T) (819)
4.30 Countdown (T) (7330838)
4.55 Montel Williams (T) (9005971)
5.30 Pet Rescue (T) (155)
6.00 Roseanne A lovers' tiff nearly burns the house down (r) (T) (628)
6.30 Hollyoaks Adam catches Luke and Ruth together (T) (548)
7.00 Channel 4 News; Weather (T) (537242)
7.50 New Labour, New Language Examination of the ideas behind the Government's buzz-words (1/5) (T) (255890)
8.00 CHOICE **Mystery of the Mummies** A team of anthropologists are given exclusive access to the remains of a lost race of Caucasian people found in China's Takla Makan Desert (T) (6664)



The Leaning Tower of Pisa: will it finally topple? (9pm)

9.00 CHOICE **Equinox** Investigation into the likely fate of Pisa's famous Leaning Tower (T) (3548)
10.00 Sex, Lies and Videotape (1989) FILM An impotent man, who delights in interviewing women about sex, has a profound effect on a friend's troubled marriage. Award-winning drama, starring James Spader and Andie MacDowell. Directed by Steven Soderbergh (T) (393529)
11.55 Smack the Pony (r) (T) (783797)
12.30am And the Beat Goes On Nicholas Spencer's political ambitions are jeopardised (4/8) (r) (T) (3467136)
1.35 Dispatches (r) (T) (9299778)
2.05 Powerhouse Political news (7200136)
2.35 The Client (r) (2418594)
3.25 Street Sisters Prostitutes discuss their lives (99023391)
3.45 Dirty Creatures A youngster and her dog who are kidnapped by a wicked old man (r) (98551575)
4.00 Schools: Tackling Technology (8161285) **5.15** The English Programme (3029643)

CHANNEL 5

6.00am 5 News and Sport (5661093)
7.00 WideWorld Part two. Russell Grant reveals how to record events for posterity (r) (T) (2528109)
7.30 Milkshake! (2316567)
7.35 Muppet Babies (r) (4730180)
8.00 Havakazoo (r) (8447513)
8.30 Dappledown Farm (r) (8446884)
9.00 The Roseanne Show (5223722)
9.50 Russell Grant's Postcards (8568155)
9.55 The Bold and the Beautiful (8467074)
10.20 Sunset Beach Ricardo learns that Antonio is back in town (T) (4923635)
11.10 Leeza (3515600)
12.00 5 News at Noon (T) (8440600)
12.30pm Family Affairs Pam learns the case against Simon has been dropped (r) (T); 5 News Update (5792889)
1.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show (T) (4581161)
1.50 McMillan and Wife: $2 on Trouble to Win (1973) FILM Husband-and-wife crime-busters Rock Hudson and Susan St James tackle another perplexing case. Directed by Bob Lewis (28567068)
3.15 Kisses for My President (1964) FILM Drama about the trials and triumphs of the first female US President. Fred MacMurray and Arlene Dahl star. Directed by Curtis Bernhardt (T) (60044616)
5.20 5 News (59922161)
5.30 100 Per Cent (6818364)
6.00 5 News; Weather Kirsty Young rounds up the day's stories (T) (6815277)
6.30 Family Affairs Pam gets a nuisance call (T); 5 News Update (6806529)
7.00 My Secret New series introduced by Lauren Booth. Two guests reveal amazing secrets to unsuspecting friends and relations (2752513)
7.30 Aussie Birds Brush turkeys and other big-footed Australian birds that build nesting mounds rather than sitting on their eggs (T); 5 News Update (6722513)
8.00 Instant Gardens Jac Flower and Myles Matthews design a garden on feng shui principles, avoiding straight lines and channelling natural energy in the layout and colour plan (9/14) (T) (2834161)
8.30 Wildlife Police Video footage of salmon poachers in Wales and the activities of animal liberation activists in Staffordshire who caused chaos by releasing 7,000 mink into the wild (T) (2757068)
9.00 Courtyard (TVM 1995) FILM An architect becomes embroiled in a murder investigation while falling for the victim's sister. Thriller, starring Andrew McCarthy, Madchen Amick, David Packer and Bonnie Bartlett. Directed by Fred Walton (T); 5 News Update (49959987)
10.55 Dr Fox's Chart Update (6997242)
11.00 The Choirboys (1978) FILM A group of foul-mouthed LA cops go on a series of wild adventures — but their fun is brought to an abrupt halt by the accidental shooting of a gay teenager. Drama, starring Charles Durning. Directed by Robert Aldrich (16562258)
1.15am Live and Dangerous: Ice Hockey — NHL Todd Macklin and Richard Orford present action from the clash between Dallas and Colorado (62928448)
4.00 Fedex Championship Series Indycar *racing* (8400198)
5.30 100 Per Cent (r) (6532643)

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SATELLITE, CABLE AND DIGITAL

● For further listings see Saturday's *Vision*

SKY ONE

7.00am Count Duckula (84600) **7.30** Godzilla (78635) **8.00** Pokemon (65426) **8.30** Hollywood Squares (84797) **9.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (74884) **10.00** The Oprah Winfrey Show (72819) **11.00** Guilty! (89155) **12.00** Jenny Jones (79432) **1.00pm** Mad About You (83971) **1.30** Jeopardy (92068) **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (50109) **3.00** Jenny Jones (83890) **4.00** Guilty! (45187) ...00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (7726) ...00 America's Dumbest Criminals (4838) ...30 Friends (8890) **7.00** The Simpsons (1655) **7.30** The Simpsons (4074) **8.00** Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (20819) **9.00** First Wave (37155) **10.00** South Park (69242) ...0.30 King of the Hill (41890) **11.00** Friends (95646) **11.30** Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (42451) **12.30am** Law and Order (30730) ...30 Long Play (4398001)

SKY BOX OFFICE

Sky's pay-per-view movie channels. ...o view any film telephone 0990 800888
...KY BOX OFFICE 1 (Transponder 51) ...Mortal Kombat 2: Annihilation (1997)
...KY BOX OFFICE 2 (Transponder 60) ...phere (1997)
...KY BOX OFFICE 3 (Transponder 59) ...Househunt (1997)
...KY BOX OFFICE 4 (Transponder 58) ...ard Rain (1998)

SKY PREMIER

...00am **First Do No Harm (1997)** (16068) ...00 **Narrow Escape (1997)** (32703) ...00 **Treehouse Hostage (1998)** (...5155) **12.00 The Princess Bride (1987)** (...03884) **1.55pm Narrow Escape (1997)** (...8965093) **3.30** Barry Norman's Film Night (...364) **4.00 First Do No Harm (1997)** (...180) **6.00 Treehouse Hostage (1998)** (...2800) **8.00 The Arrival (1996)** (17345) ...00 **Event Horizon (1997)** (196703) ...35 **A Time to Kill (1996)** (82007068) ...05 **The Pallbearer (1996)** (570469) **3.45** ...oonshine Highway (1996) (18201952)

SKY MOVIEMAX

...00am The Rockford Files: Godfather Knows Best (1996) (71180) **9.00 UHF** (1989) (58797) **11.00 The Associate** (1996) (21819) **1.00 The Rockford Files: Godfather Knows Best (1996)** (52513) ...30 **UHF (1989)** (53567) **5.00 The Double Man (1967)** (47074) **7.00 The Associate (1996)** (62432) **9.00 Striptease (1996)** (18074) **11.00 Anaconda (1997)** (84971) **12.30am Overdrive (1997)** (479339) **2.05 L'Appartement (1995)** (180010) **4.00 The Girl with Brains in Her Feet (1997)** (195488)

SKY CINEMA

4.00pm The Fugitive (1947) (7123161) **6.00 Tarzan and the Huntress (1947)** (7346258) **7.30 Greatest Show On Earth** (1952) (9554068) **10.00 First Deadly Sin** (1980) (3780426) **11.55 The Left-Handed Gun (1958)** (7900093) **1.40am Advise and Consent (1962)** (50580285) **4.00 Sylvia Scarlett (1935)** (3854943)

FILMFOUR

6.00pm The Scent of Green Papaya (1993) (8180426) **8.00 In the Bleak Midwinter (1995)** (33598987) **9.45** Butler (2816600) **10.00 Peter's Friends (1992)** (8311635) **11.45 The Exterminating Angel (1962)** (5948190) **1.15am Belle de Jour (1967)** (9162643) **2.55 Angels (1994)** (7779285) **4.45 Killer's Kiss (1955)** (5196391) **6.00** Close

TNT

9.00pm Bhowani Junction (1956) (93161529) **11.00 Butterfield Eight (1960)** (99198600) **1.15am Demon Seed (1977)** (71877020) **3.00 Bhowani Junction (1956)** (84324865) **5.00** Close

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am FA Cup **8.00** Scottish FA Cup **11.00** League Review **12.00** Aerobics **12.30pm** What a Weekend **1.00** Football Special **2.00** Spanish Football **4.00** V-Max **4.30** Powerboat and Jetsport World **5.00** Ten Pin Bowling **6.00** Sports Centre **6.30** What a Weekend **7.00** Live Monday Night Football **10.15** Sports Centre **10.30** You're On Sky Sports! **11.15** Football League Review **12.15am** Sports Centre **12.30** You're On Sky Sports! **1.15** Monday Night Football **3.15** Football League Review **4.15** Sports Centre **4.30** Close

SKY SPORTS 2

7.00am Aerobics **7.30** *Racing* News **8.00** US Golf **11.00** US Golf **2.00** X-Zone **2.30** Super League **4.30** Rebel Sports **5.00** Football League Review **6.00** X-Zone **6.30** V-Max **7.00** Asian Golf Show **8.00** World Motor Sport **11.00** NFL Europe **11.30** Ten Pin Bowling **12.30am** Asian Golf Show **1.30** V-Max **2.00** X-Zone **2.30** International Bowls **4.30** Sports Centre **4.45** Close

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00am Karate **12.30pm** V-Max **1.00** Motorcycling **3.00** Total Sport **3.30** NFL Europe **5.30** Fish TV **8.00** Rugby Union **8.00** International Bowls **10.00** Wonderful World of Golf **11.00** Golden Age of Motor Racing: A to Z of Motor Sport **11.30** Close

EUROSPORT

7.30am Cycling **8.30** Marathon **9.30** Live Tennis **5.00pm** Live Marathon **7.30** Weightlifting **10.00** Football **11.30** Motorcycling **12.30am** Close

UK GOLD

7.00am Crossroads **7.30** Neighbours **7.55** EastEnders **8.30** The Bill **9.30** The House of Eliott **10.30** Rhoda **11.00** Dallas **11.55** Neighbours **12.25pm** EastEnders **1.00** Bugs **2.00** Dallas **2.55** The Bill **3.55** EastEnders **4.30** Rhoda **5.00** Dangerfield **6.00** Dynasty **7.00** Some Mothers Do 'Ave 'Em **7.40** Last of the Summer Wine **8.20** Dad's Army **9.00** Casualty **10.05** The Sculptress **12.05am** The Bill **12.35** The Bill **1.05** Between the Lines **2.00** Dad's Army **2.30** The Man from Auntie **3.00** Shopping with Screenshop

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am Wish Me Luck **7.00** Plus On Plus **7.30** The Odd Couple **8.00** Families **8.30** Mind Your Language **9.00** Classic Coronation Street **9.30** Emmerdale **10.00** Upstairs, Downstairs **11.00** Charlie's Angels **12.00** Classic Coronation Street **12.30pm** Emmerdale **1.00** Mind Your Language **1.30** Me and My Girl **2.00** Upstairs, Downstairs **3.00** The Love Boat **4.00** The Professionals **5.00** Charlie's Angels **6.00** Emmerdale **6.30** Classic Coronation Street **7.00** The Professionals **8.00** The Benny Hill Show **9.00** The Sweeney **10.00** Hale and Pace **10.30** The Comedians **11.00** Men and Motors

CARLTON SELECT

5.00pm What's Cooking? **5.30** Gridlock **6.00** Animal SOS **6.30** Our House **7.00** Boon **8.00** Birds of a Feather **8.30** A Kind of Living **9.00** The Ruth Rendell Mysteries **10.00** Big Sky **11.00** Hill Street Blues **12.00** Tales of the Unexpected **12.30am** Gridlock **1.00** Close

A fine ensemble cast gets together in Kenneth's Branagh's touching comedy drama *Peter's Friends* (FilmFour, 10pm)

DISNEY CHANNEL

6.00am Gummi Bears **6.25** Classic Toons **6.35** Tale Spin **7.00** Classic Toons **7.10** Aladdin **7.35** 101 Dalmatians **8.00** Goof Troop **8.25** Classic Toons **8.45** New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh **9.00** The Adventures of Spot **9.07** Animal Shelf **9.17** Pocket Dragons **9.30** Bear in the Big Blue House **9.55** The Toothbrush Family **10.00** Bite Size **10.12** Rosie and Jim **10.30** Big Garage **10.45** PB and J Otter **11.00** Sesame Street **12.00** The Adventures of Spot **12.07pm** Animal Shelf **12.17** Pocket Dragons **12.30** Bear in the Big Blue House **12.55** The Toothbrush Family **1.00** Bite Size **1.12** Rosie and Jim **1.30** Big Garage **1.45** PB and J Otter **2.00** New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh **2.30** Quack Pack **3.00** The Little Mermaid **3.30** Art Attack **4.00** 101 Dalmatians **4.30** Hercules **5.00** Recess **5.15** Pepper Ann **5.30** Smart Guy **6.00** Teen Angel **6.30** Boy Meets World **7.00** **FILM: The Brave Little Toaster Goes to Mars (1997)** **8.10** Honey I Shrunk the Kids **9.00** Dinosaurs **10.00** Home Improvement **10.30** The Wonder Years **11.00** Touched by an Angel **11.50** Classic Toons **12.00** Close

FOX KIDS NETWORK

6.00am Power Rangers Turbo **6.30** Power Rangers Turbo **6.55** Spiderman **7.20** Oggy and the Cockroaches **7.30** Dennis and Gnasher **8.00** Hero Turtles **8.25** Incredible Hulk **8.50** Iron Man **9.15** Fantastic Four **9.40** X-Men **10.05** Casper **10.30** Oggy and the Cockroaches **10.55** Eek! Stravaganza **11.05** Bobby's World **11.30** Life with Louie **11.55** Home to Rent **12.05pm** The Secret Files of the Spy Dogs **12.30** Donkey Kong Country **1.00** Mowgli **1.25** Ace Ventura **1.55** The Incredible Hulk **2.20** Iron Man **2.45** Fantastic Four **3.10** X-Men **3.30** X-Press **3.35** Spiderman **4.00** Goosebumps **4.25** Hero Turtles **5.00** Dennis and Gnasher **5.30** Ace Ventura **6.00** Donkey Kong Country **6.30** Eek!Stravaganza **6.55** Oggy and the Cockroaches **7.00** Close

NICKELODEON

6.00am Extreme Ghostbusters **6.30** Bruno the Kid **7.00** CatDog **7.30** Rugrats **8.00** Hey Arnold! **8.30** Doug **9.00** Children's BBC **10.00** Wimzie's House **10.30** Papa Beaver Stories **11.00** The Magic School Bus **11.30** PB Bear/Animal Antics/Family Ness **12.00** Rugrats **12.30pm** Blue's Clues **1.00** Bananas in Pyjamas **1.30** Franklin **2.00** Paddington Bear/Lizzie's Library/Portland Bill/Mr Men/Ivor the Engine **2.30** Children's BBC **3.00** Children's BBC **3.30** Doug **4.00** Angry Beavers **4.30** Rugrats **5.00** Sister Sister **5.30** Kenan and Kel **6.00** Sabrina the Teenage Witch **6.30** The Secret Life of Alex Mack **7.00** Close

TROUBLE

7.00am USA High **7.30** City Guys **8.00** Saved by the Bell: The New Class **8.30** Hang Time **9.00** Tempesti **9.50** On the Make **10.00** Echo Point **10.30** Hollyoaks **11.00** Sweet Valley High **11.30** Ready or Not **12.00** The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air **12.30pm** Weird Science **1.00** In the House **1.30** Tempesti **2.20** On the Make **2.30** Hollyoaks **3.00** Ready or Not **3.30** City Guys **4.00** The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air **4.30** Weird Science **5.00** In the House **5.30** Saved by the Bell: The New Class **6.00** Sweet Valley High **6.30** Movies, Games and Videos **7.00** USA High **7.30** Hang Time

BRAVO

8.00pm Martial Law **9.00** Cops **9.30** The Late Lounge **10.00** Extreme Wrestling **10.30** Erotic Confessions **11.00** **FILM: Eleven Days, Eleven Nights (1987)** **1.00am** Erotic Confessions **1.30** The Late Lounge **2.00** Martial Law **3.00** **FILM: Skyscraper (1996)** **5.00** Extreme Wrestling **5.30** Cops **6.00** Close

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm Clueless **7.30** Caroline in the City **8.00** Mad About You **8.30** Spin City **9.00** Drop the Dead Donkey **9.30** Whose Line is it Anyway? **10.00** Frasier **10.30** Cheers **11.00** Seinfeld **11.30** Spin City **12.00** Late Night with David Letterman **1.00am** Garry Shandling's Show **1.30** Nurses **2.00** Almost Perfect **2.30** Tibs and Fibs **3.00** Mork and Mindy **3.30** Abbott and Costello **4.00** Close

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

SATELLITE: 8pm-MIDNIGHT ONLY

7.30am Bloomberg Information Television **8.00** Sightings **9.00** Battlestar Galactica **10.00** The Six Million Dollar Man **11.00** Dark Shadows **11.30** New Alfred Hitchcock **12.00** The Twilight Zone **12.30pm** The Twilight Zone **1.00** Tales of the Unexpected **1.30** Tales of the Unexpected **2.00** Amazing Stories **2.30** Mysteries, Magic and Miracles **3.00** Battlestar Galactica **4.00** The Incredible Hulk **5.00** Sightings **6.00** Cybernet **6.30** New Alfred Hitchcock **7.00** The Six Million Dollar Man **8.00** The Cape **9.00** Babylon 5 **10.00** **FILM: Escape from New York (1981)** **12.00** VR5 **1.00am** **FILM: Lord of Illusions (1995)** **3.00** Dark Shadows **3.30** Dark Shadows **4.00** Close

HOME & LEISURE

6.00am Simply Painting **6.30** Instant Gardens **7.00** Potted History with Antony Henn **7.30** The Restoration Game **8.00** Australia's Strangest Home Improvements **8.30** The Close Guide **9.00** The Joy of Painting **9.30** Grow for It **10.00** Instant Gardens **10.30** Antiques Trail **11.00** Hooked on Fishing **11.25** The Home and Leisure House **11.30** Total Fishing with Matt Hayes **12.00** These Four Walls **12.30pm** Our House Down Under **1.00** The Furniture Guys **1.30** Gimme Shelter **2.00** New Yankee Workshop **2.30** Home Again with Bob Vila **3.00** This Old House with Steve and Norm **3.30** Two's Country: Get Stuck In

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Rex Hunt Fishing Adventures **4.30** The Diceman **5.00** Connections **6.00** Outback Adventures **6.30** Untamed Amazonia **7.30** Flightline **8.00** Beyond the *Truth* **9.00** *Loch Ness Discovered* **10.00** Search for the Sea Serpent **11.00** Wolfman: The Myth and the Science **12.00** UFO and Close Encounters **1.00am** Flightline **1.30** The Diceman **2.00** Close

ANIMAL PLANET

12.00am Hollywood Safari **1.00pm** Monkey Business **1.30** Monkey Business **2.00** Monkey Business **3.00** Cousins Beneath the Skin **4.00** Champions of the Wild **4.30** The Holy Monkeys of Rajasthan **5.00** Wildlife Rescues **6.00** Pet Rescue **7.00** Wildlife SOS **7.30** Wildlife SOS **8.00** Animal Doctor **9.00** Emergency Vets **9.30** Emergency Vets **10.00** Emergency Vets **10.30** Emergency Vets **11.00** Emergency Vets **11.30** Emergency Vets **12.00** Close

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

7.00pm The Llamero and the Boy with the White Llama **7.30** Koalas in my Backyard **8.30** Fire Bombers **9.00** Living Science. Cool Science **10.00** Lost Worlds. *Renaissance of the Dinosaurs* **11.00** Extreme Earth. Land of Fire and Ice **11.30** Extreme Earth: Liquid Earth **12.00** On the Edge: Deep into the Labyrinth **12.30am** On the Edge: Flight Across the World

HISTORY

4.00pm Secrets of War: Super Guns **6.00** Loch Ness Monster **6.55** Photos for the Future **7.00** Tales of the Gun: AK-47

CARLTON FOOD

9.00am Food Network Daily **9.30** Coxon's Kitchen College **10.00** The Restaurant Show **10.30** So You Think You Can't Cook **11.00** Worrall Thompson Cooks **11.30** Ideal Home Cooks **12.00** Food Network Daily **12.30pm** Nordic Nosh **1.00** Coxon's Kitchen College **1.30** Tessa's Tastebuds **2.00** Ross' Foreign Assignment **2.30** Food Network Daily **3.00** Frances Bissell's West Country Kitchen **3.30** Ideal Home Cooks **4.00** Grape Expectations **4.30** Gordon Ramsay's Passion for Flavour **5.00** Close

LIVING

6.00am Can't Cook, Won't Cook **6.30** Animal Rescue **7.00** Professor Bubble **7.30** Polka Dot Shorts **7.35** Bug Alert **7.40** Johnson and Friends **7.50** Babaloos **7.55** Practical Parenting **8.00** Barney and Friends **8.25** My Zoo **8.30** Tiny and Crew **8.50** Practical Parenting **9.00** Special Babies **9.30** Home and Away **10.00** The Jerry Springer Show **10.50** Maury Povich **11.40** Brookside **12.10pm** Through the Keyhole **12.40** Rescue 911 **1.10** Beyond Belief: Fact or Fiction **1.40** Maury Povich **2.30** Special Babies **3.00** Living Room **3.50** Michael Cole **4.40** Home and Away **5.10** Through the Keyhole **5.40** Can't Cook, Won't Cook **6.15** The Jerry Springer Show **7.05** Rescue 911 **7.35** Animal Rescue **8.00** LA Law **9.00** **FILM: Dying to Remember (1993)** **11.00** Sexdasyl **12.00** Close

ZEE TV

5.00am Amar Kathayen **5.30** Sa Re Ga Na **6.00** Your Zindagi **6.30** Geet Gata Chal **7.00** Faith: Hindu **7.30** Daily News **8.00** Ru-Ba-Ru **8.30** Tara 2 **9.00** Jaan **9.30** Banegi Apni Baat **10.00** Karb **11.00** Jhat Pat Khana **11.30** Parampara **12.00** **FILM: Hindi Movie: Farista Ya Gatil** **3.00pm** Bangla TV: Nokhatrer Rat **3.30** Ikke Pe Ikka **4.00** Akbar Birbal **4.30** Quiz Contest **5.00** Neeyat **5.30** Chehal Aur Nahrat **6.00** Music Mag **6.30** Cha Cha Cha **7.00** Ghar Jamai **7.30** Filmi Baatein **8.00** News **8.30** Mausam *9.00 Sa Re Ga Ma* **10.00** *Talking To* **10.30** Up Beat **11.00** Shapath **11.30** Mama Miya **12.00** News **12.30am** Aap Ki Adalat **1.00** Karobari Duniya **1.30** Parivartan **2.00** **FILM: Punjabi Movie De 4.30** Revathi

PROFILE 48
Behind the scenes at Misys

BUSINESS

SEARCH 50
Roger Bootle on the hunt for inflation



BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

MONDAY APRIL 19 1999

EU tax threat to eurobonds remains unresolved

By Robert Lea

THE City's trillion-pound eurobond industry is becoming increasingly edgy over its future, after a meeting of European finance ministers at the weekend closed with a conclusion to the thorny issue of withholding tax no nearer.

While Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, attempted to strike an upbeat note after the Ecofin meeting in Dresden, British officials admitted: "We are an extremely long way away from finding a working definition which would be acceptable to us."

Mr Brown said after the meeting: "We have always said we will do everything to advance the eurobond market in the United Kingdom and that we will not agree to any directive that imposes a withholding tax on Britain. What is interesting in the last few weeks is that there is a growing understanding of the British position — that we are both determined and right in what we are doing."

Meanwhile, Mario Monti, the outgoing European Tax Commissioner, said: "The crucial new element was that many member states have said they are in favour of working towards a specific solution for eurobonds."

What is at issue is a draft EU directive on investments which would put a minimum 20 per cent tax on interest income on bank accounts or securities held within the EU by EU residents.

Such a tax would hobble the City of London as the pre-eminent market in eurobonds and would hit tens of thousands of jobs in the Square Mile. The business is likely to migrate rapidly to Switzerland.

The failure to announce any developments on the issue is already taking its toll of the market, according to Tim Dickenson, spokesman for the International Securities Market Association.

"There are signs that investors are beginning to insist that [bond] issuers appoint paying agents that are outside of the EU," said Mr Dickenson. "The continued uncertainty means that it is highly likely that that trend will continue."

Having a paying agent — the bank through which the coupon, or interest, on a bond is paid — located offshore or in Switzerland could ensure that if the withholding tax directive comes in, those particular bonds would remain exempt.

City leaders are privately arguing that the lack of news out of *Dresden is because there is a genuine* impasse over a tax which on the one hand Britain and Luxemburg implacably oppose and which on the other hand could be riddled with loopholes if concessions are granted.

After the Ecofin meeting, Luc Frieden, Luxembourg's Budget Minister, said: "There was no agreement within the Ecofin, either to exclude eurobonds or to affirm that there had been an agreement to exclude a certain number of eurobonds."

Treasury officials were unable to confirm what status the discussions on withholding tax would have at next month's Ecofin meeting.

Leading article, page 23

City bets on counter-bid for Asda

By Sarah Cunningham, Retail Correspondent

CITY investors who were busy late on Friday betting on Kingfisher's agreed offer for Asda flushing out a higher takeover bidder are likely to learn quickly whether they have bet wisely.

Asda's share price shot to 4 per cent above the value of Kingfisher's all-share agreed offer on Friday on expectations of a counter-bid. Other *potential bidders* have been identified as Wal-Mart of the US, Carrefour of France or Ahold of The Netherlands, but it is believed that they will have to come forward sooner rather than later.

Asda and Kingfisher publish the details of the deal, which they are billing as a merger, today and they hope to have it completed by the end of June.

Kingfisher insiders were irritated that the deal was being interpreted as Asda being sold on the cheap. Before Asda's price rose on Friday, and Kingfisher's fell, the deal offered a 12.2 per cent premium to Asda shareholders.

"There had to be a premium because Asda's share price had been depressed by the Competition Commission re*ferral [into trading in the* whole supermarket sector]," said one insider.

"We had to agree terms that reflect the real value of Asda, so it could not be nil premium. But the idea is that Asda shareholders will be investing in the future growth of the enlarged business."

Kingfisher and Asda will today seek to persuade the City *that the reasons for the merger* are compelling. Growth would initially come from such changes as putting Asda's George-branded clothing into high street branches of Woolworth's, which is part of Kingfisher. Goods from other Kingfisher chains, such as Comet, B&Q and Superdrug will begin to be sold in branches of Asda.

Sir Geoffrey Mulcahy, who will remain chief executive of Kingfisher, and Allan Leighton, who is chief executive of Asda and will be Sir Geoffrey's deputy, will also argue that the merged company would have better leverage with suppliers, which should lead to about £100 million of synergy benefits. Because there is little overlap, cost savings would be much less, at *about £40 million to £60 mil*lion. The enlarged group's strong balance sheet and cashflow should allow Kingfisher to continue the expansion of its electrical and DIY arms in Europe.

The deal could also allow Kingfisher to go further with its Big W out-of-town stores.

The stores, the first of which is to be opened soon near Edin*burgh, are intended to be effec*tively very large branches of Woolworth's but which also sell goods from Comet, B&Q and Superdrug.

Although the intention has been to put in adult clothing and fast food from outside companies, George clothing and Asda food could be incorporated to create the nearest thing in Britain to a Wal-Mart store. Wal-Mart's highly successful formula has made it the largest retailer in the world.

In the longer run, Kingfisher would hope to export Big W-style stores to emerging markets. Tesco, the UK market leader, is opening hypermarkets in Eastern Europe, Thailand and South Korea. It is expected to open up in Malaysia and Taiwan soon. Wal-Mart and Carrefour, Ahold and a number of other continental operators have also been busily opening hypermarkets in the Third World.

SIMON BROOKE-WEBB



A model parading Virgin fashion for a Selfridges campaign to boost designer fashion sales

Designs on lifting fashion sales at Selfridges

By Sarah Cunningham

SELFRIDGES is attempting to boost sales of its designer clothing with a series of catwalk shows to be held this week at its London and Manchester stores.

Models wearing the spring/summer collections from Versace V/2, Virgin, Miu Miu, Clements Ribeiro, Joseph and Ronit Zilkha, among others, will be on parade.

Selfridges has said that sales at its Oxford Street store picked up sharply in February and March. Like-for-like growth was up 6 per cent on a year earlier, and total sales *growth was 13 per cent, includ*ing the reopening of some refurbished areas of the store. Manchester, which opened for business at Trafford Park last year, was also reported to be trading well.

Whether other retailers' efforts to spur trade after a dreadful winter season have begun to pay off should become evident on Thursday, when the official March retail sales figures are published. Indications for March from British Retail Consortium sales data and the CBI distributive trades survey were positive.

On Tuesday, the retail price index figures for March are to be published. HSBC Securities thinks that retailers have been attempting to rebuild margins after cutting prices hard at the turn of the year in a desperate attempt to boost sales. In terms of inflation, this is likely to be offset by the recent cuts in mortgage rates.

Bidding battle likely for First Choice

By Dominic Walsh

FIRST CHOICE HOLIDAYS, which last month unveiled a £1.5 billion merger with Kuoni of Switzerland, could find itself at the centre of a bidding war involving Europe's biggest tour operators.

In recent days, speculation has been mounting that Airtours is preparing to gatecrash the Kuoni merger by launching a hostile all-share counter-bid worth 220p-230p a share.

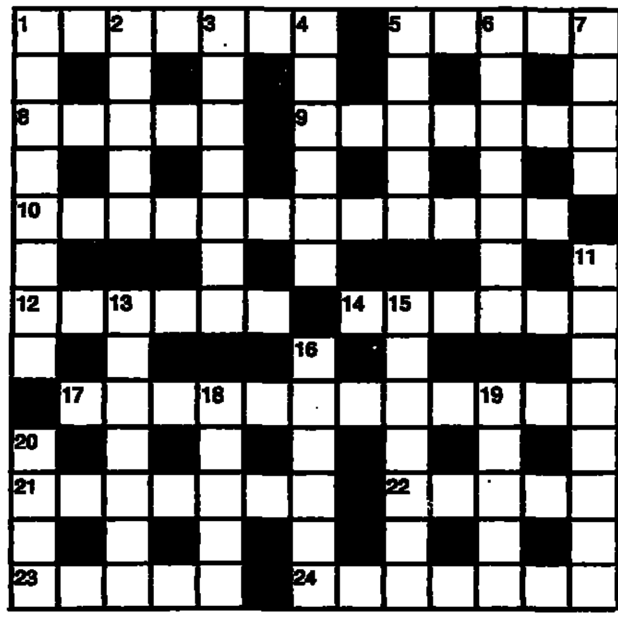
However, there were indications last night that both Thomson Travel Group, the UK's market leader, and Preussag of Germany, which *controls Thomas Cook*, were considering how to block the expected move from David Crossland, the Airtours chairman. Preussag, which through Thomas Cook holds 14 per cent of First Choice, could launch a bid, although Thomson would face huge competition hurdles.

Ian Clubb, First Choice chairman, yesterday cautioned: "It seems improbable to me that the major Airtours competitors would be happy to let David Crossland proceed without themselves considering bidding as well, and that's before taking account of the substantial regulatory issues."

He said that a bid would "represent a reckless gamble" for Mr Crossland as it would inevitably lead to a competition inquiry, weakening First Choice during its crucial summer trading period.

Airtours, which failed in an attempt to buy First Choice in 1993, declined to comment.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1695

ACROSS
- 1 Pastoral: of country life (7)
- 5 Marvellous *(slang)*: an extra (5)
- 8 Prestige (5)
- 9 Quivering with energy (7)
- 10 (Learned) in painless fashion (7,5)
- 12 Flippancy (6)
- 14 Clandestine; a thicket (6)
- 17 Covered in bruises (5,3,4)
- 21 Zog its king once (7)
- 22 Factory: install (eg spy) (5)
- 23 Smarten, admire oneself (5)
- 24 Cockney area of London (4,3)

DOWN
- 1 Derbys. town, its pudding (8)
- 2 Trainee; junior family (branch) (5)
- 3 Suffice, endure, to end (4,3)
- 4 Hole (in eg tooth) (6)
- 5 Cavalryman's sword (5)
- 6 US open plain (7)
- 7 (Habitual) repetition (4)
- 11 Bore witness (to) (8)
- 13 With much to say (7)
- 15 He married his mother *(Gk. myth)* (7)
- 16 Wild, violent (6)
- 18 Principle: genuine oeuvre (5)
- 19 (Permission to) go (5)
- 20 Speak gratingly: a tool (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1694
ACROSS: 1 Kiss of death 7 Cynic *8 Parfait 10 Sideshow* 11 Kiwi 13 Anchor 15 Floral 17 Tusk 18 Palpably 21 Drivers 22 Adieu 23 Thomas Hardy
DOWN: 1 Kick-started 2 Synod 3 Occasion 4 Deploy 5 Aire 6 Heavier 9 Trial by Jury 12 Slapdash 14 Casuist 16 Nausea 19 Briar (Brier) 20 Nero

Li Ka-shing is entrepreneur of millennium

WITH less than two weeks to go to enter the Entrepreneur of the Year competition, a panel of experts from *The Times* and Ernst & Young has adjudicated on who is the Entrepreneur of the Millennium.

From Cosimo de Medici to Bill Gates, from Henry Ford to Richard Arkwright, 15 entrepreneurs in all were assessed.

The winner is Li Ka-shing, a Hong Kong serial entrepreneur and creator of three business empires. An entrepreneur with no advantage in life but his wits, he was born in a troubled China in 1928, arrived in Hong Kong at 11 and left school soon after. Making plastic toys won him fame; property speculation brought fortune. Status came with buying two traditionally British-controlled companies, Hong Kong Electric and Hutchison Whampoa, creator of Orange.

Mr Li is worth about £5 billion. Any one of his careers would make him a great entrepreneur. All three make him the greatest of the millennium.

☐ ***Entrepreneur of the Year: 0845 6041012 or www.eoy.co.uk***



Li: three business empires



Composer can call the tune

Lord Lloyd-Webber, the composer, has taken 100 per cent control of Really Useful, his theatrical production and copyright holding business, buying the 30 per cent that he did not own from Universal Music for $75 million (£46 million).

As Andrew Lloyd Webber, he floated Really Useful in the 1980s, but he took it private at the end of the decade with the help of PolyGram, which paid $110 million for the stake. It came under the control of Universal after Seagram bought PolyGram last year.

Rankin post

Sir Alick Rankin, former chairman of Scottish & Newcastle and of General Accident, has emerged as the senior non-executive director at the soon-to-be floated Anglo American. Sir Alick will be deputy chairman of the South African mining company when it lists in London.

KKR in frame

Kohlberg Kravis Roberts, the US buyout specialist, is emerging as favourite to buy AstraZeneca's specialty chemicals business for about £1.6 billion. Zeneca put the business up for sale last autumn before the merger with Astra.

Church to unload BAe

By Our City Staff

THE Church of England is to dump, for ethical reasons, more than two million shares that it will hold in British Aerospace after the completion of its purchase of GEC's Marconi Electronics Systems division.

The Church's investment policy prevents it buying shares in companies with weapons as a "major" part of their business. But it will end up with a chunk of Britain's biggest arms company when the Marconi deal is clinched. Under the terms of the deal, GEC investors will receive 42 BAe shares for every 100 GEC shares they own. The Church has nearly 5.5 million GEC shares worth £25 million.

Arun Kataria, spokesman for the Church Commissioners, said: "BAe is pretty well entirely an armaments company and a very great deal of what it produces is directly aggressive." BAe is the manufacturer of Tornado bombers and Harrier jump jets currently seeing action in the Balkans.

GEC on the other hand, he said, was "a broadly based manufacturing company that gradually increased its production of military equipment, much of which is broadly defensive".